

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified)  
(REV 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

212289US0PCT

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/926299

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/JP00/02295

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

7 April 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

9 April 1999 (earliest)

TITLE OF INVENTION

L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

GUNJI Yoshiya et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
  - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

**Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:**

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

**Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report/Notice of Priority****PCT/IB/304/Drawings (5 Sheets)/PCT/IB/308****Sequence Listing (31 sheets)/Substitute Sequence Listing (39 sheets)/Computer-readable sequence Listing**

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR <div style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">09/926299</div>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <div style="text-align: center;">PCT/JP00/02295</div>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <div style="text-align: center;">212289US0PCT</div>	
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24. The following fees are submitted: <b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE ( 37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :</b> <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$1040.00</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... <b>\$890.00</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... <b>\$740.00</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$710.00</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... <b>\$100.00</b> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> <b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b> </div>				<b>CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</b>	
				\$890.00	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	27 - 20 =	7	x \$18.00	\$126.00	
Independent claims	6 - 3 =	3	x \$84.00	\$252.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				\$1,268.00	
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				\$1,268.00	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				\$1,268.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				\$1,268.00	
				Amount to be refunded	\$
				charged	\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of **\$1,268.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **15-0030**. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

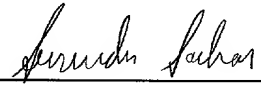
d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**Surinder Sachar**  
Registration No. 34,423

  
**22850**

  
 SIGNATURE  
**Norman F. Oblon**  
 NAME  
**24,618**  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER  

Oct. 9 2001

 DATE

212289US-0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
YOSHIYA GUNJI ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION  
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION :  
(Based on PCT/JP00/02295)  
FILED: HERewith :  
FOR: L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING :  
BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR :  
PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 with the following:

(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.

Page 33, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following:

The gene which codes for DDPR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "dapB") codes for DDPR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the dapB gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide

sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The dapB gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

Page 63, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 with the following:

Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and pMMDAPA-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture both. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of diaminopimelic acid and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as dapA).

Page 76 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please replace the original Sequence Listing with the substitute Sequence Listing appended to this Preliminary Amendment.



### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

8. (Amended) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 5, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

11. (Amended) The bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.

12. (Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

14. (Amended) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.

Please add new Claims 26-27.

26. (New) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 6, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

27. (New) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 7, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde

dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are active in the present application. Claims 8, 11-12, and 14 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 26 and 27 are new claims. Support for the new claims and amended claims is found in the original claims. The specification is amended to correct typographical errors.

Applicants have now submitted a substitute Sequence Listing and a corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing. The sequence information recorded in the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing is identical to the paper copy of the substitute Sequence Listing. Support for all of the sequences listed in the substitute Sequence Listing is found in the present application as originally filed. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the submission of the substitute Sequence Listing and the corresponding computer-readable Sequence Listing.

An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
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Registration No. 24,618

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H:\212289-PR.WPD

**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No:

10-9-01

Amendment Filed on:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 22 with the following:

--(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.--

Page 33, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 with the following:

--The gene which codes for [DDBR] DDPR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapB*") codes for [DDBR] DDPR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapB* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The *dapB* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.--

Page 63, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 with the following:

--Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and [pMMDAP-2] pMMDAPA-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each

transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture both. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of diaminopimelic acid and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapA*).--

Page 76 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please replace the original Sequence Listing with the substitute Sequence Listing appended to this Preliminary Amendment.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--8. (Amended) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to [any one of claims 5 to 7] claim 5, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

11. (Amended) The bacterium according to [any of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.

12. (Amended) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in [any one of claim 1 to 11] claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

14. (Amended) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in [any one of claim 1 to 11] claim 1 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.--

Claims 26 and 27. (New)

5/pts

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L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR  
PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

TECHNICAL FIELD

5           The present invention relates to techniques in the field of microbial industry. In particular, the present invention relates to a method for producing an L-amino acid by fermentation, and a microorganism used in the method.

10

BACKGROUND ART

          Amino acids such as L-lysine, L-glutamic acid, L-threonine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-valine and L-phenylalanine are industrially produced by fermentation  
15       by using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Brevibacterium*, *Corynebacterium*, *Bacillus*, *Escherichia*, *Streptomyces*, *Pseudomonas*, *Arthrobacter*, *Serratia*, *Penicillium*, *Candida* or the like. In order to improve the productivity, strains isolated from nature or  
20       artificial mutants thereof have been used as these microorganisms. Various techniques have been disclosed for enhancing activities of L-glutamic acid biosynthetic enzymes by using recombinant DNA techniques, to increase the L-glutamic acid-producing ability.

25           The productivity of L-amino acids has been considerably increased by breeding of microorganisms such as those mentioned above and the improvement of production methods. However, in order to meet further increase in the demand in future, development of methods

for more efficiently producing L-amino acids at lower cost have still been desired.

As methods for producing amino acids by fermentation of methanol which is a fermentation raw material available in a large amount at a low cost, there have conventionally known methods using microorganisms that belong to the genus *Achromobacter* or *Pseudomonas* (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 45-25273/1970), *Protaminobacter* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 49-125590/1974), *Protaminobacter* or *Methanomonas* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 50-25790/1975), *Microcycilus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 52-18886/1977), *Methylobacillus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 4-91793/1992), *Bacillus* (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 3-505284/1991) and so forth.

So far, however, no method has been known for producing L-amino acids by using *Methylophilus* bacteria. Although methods described in EP 0 035 831 A, EP 0 037 273 A and EP 0 066 994 A have been known as methods for transforming *Methylophilus* bacteria by using recombinant DNA, applying recombinant DNA techniques to improvement of amino acid productivity of *Methylophilus* bacteria has not been known.

#### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The object of the present invention is to provide a novel L-amino acid-producing bacterium and a method



for producing an L-amino acid by using the L-amino acid-producing bacterium.

As a result of the present inventors' efforts devoted to achieve the aforementioned object, they found  
5 that *Methylophilus* bacteria were suitable for producing L-amino acids. Further, although it has conventionally been considered difficult to obtain auxotrophic mutants of *Methylophilus* bacteria (FEMS Microbiology Rev. 39, 235-258 (1986) and Antonie van Leeuwenhoek 53, 47-53  
10 (1987)), the present inventors have succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic mutants of said bacteria. Thus, the present invention has been accomplished.

That is, the present invention provides the followings.

- 15 (1) A *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-producing ability.
- (2) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.
- 20 (3) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), which has resistance to an L-amino acid analogue or L-amino acid auxotrophy.
- (4) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity is  
25 enhanced.
- (5) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and aspartokinase activity are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

(6) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

5 (7) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (1), wherein aspartokinase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

(8) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to any one of (5) to (7), wherein an activity or activities of one,  
10 two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.

(9) The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (5),  
15 wherein the dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and the aspartokinase activity are enhanced by transformation through introduction into cells, of a DNA coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine and a DNA coding  
20 for aspartokinase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.

(10) The bacterium according to (1), wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase, and the bacterium has L-  
25 threonine-producing ability.

(11) The bacterium according to any one of (1) to (10), wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylophilus*.

(12) A method for producing an L-amino acid, which

comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of the above (1) to (11) in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

- 5 (13) The method according to (12), wherein the medium contains methanol as a main carbon source.

- (14) A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of the above (1) to (11) in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.
- 10

- (15) The method for producing bacterial cells of the *Methylophilus* bacterium according to (14), wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.
- 15

- (16) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (A) or (B):

- (A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or
- 20
- (B) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartokinase activity.

- 25 (17) The DNA according to (16), which is a DNA defined in the following (a) or (b):

- (a) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5; or

(b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartokinase activity.

(18) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (C) or (D):

(C) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or

(D) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

(19) The DNA according to (18), which is a DNA defined in the following (c) or (d):

(c) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

(d) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

(20) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (E) or (F):

(E) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10, or

(F) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 10 including substitution, deletion, insertion,

addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

(21) The DNA according to (20), which is a DNA defined in the following (e) or (f):

5 (e) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(f) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to  
10 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

(22) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (G) or (H):

15 (G) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or

(H) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 12 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and  
20 has dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

(23) The DNA according to (22), which is a DNA defined in the following (g) or (h):

(g) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to  
25 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having

dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

(24) A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (I) or (J):

(I) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ  
5 ID NO: 14, or

(J) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ  
ID NO: 14 including substitution, deletion, insertion,  
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and  
has diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

10 (25) The DNA according to (24), which is a DNA defined  
in the following (i) or (j):

(i) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the  
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to  
1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

15 (j) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the  
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to  
1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13 or a part thereof under a  
stringent condition, and codes for a protein having  
diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

20 In the present specification, "L-amino acid-  
producing ability" refers to ability to accumulate a  
significant amount of an L-amino acid in a medium or to  
increase the amino acid content in the microbial cells  
when a microorganism of the present invention is  
25 cultured in the medium.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows the production process of plasmid  
RSF24P having a mutant *dapA*. The "*dapA*\*24" refers to a

mutant *dapA* that codes for a mutant DDPS wherein the 118-histidine residue is replaced with a tyrosine residue.

Fig. 2 shows the production process of plasmid RSFD80 having a mutant *dapA* and a mutant *lysC*. The "lysC\*80" refers to a mutant *lysC* that codes for a mutant AKIII wherein the 352-threonine residue is replaced with an isoleucine residue.

Fig. 3 shows aspartokinase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing an *ask* gene.

Fig. 4 shows aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing an *asd* gene.

Fig. 5 shows dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing a *dapA* gene.

Fig. 6 shows dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity of a transformant *E. coli* strain containing a *dapB* gene.

Fig. 7 shows diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity of transformant *E. coli* strains containing a *lysA* gene.

#### BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

##### <1> Microorganism of the present invention

The microorganism of the present invention is a bacterium belonging to the genus *Methylophilus* and having L-amino acid-producing ability. The *Methylophilus* bacterium of the present invention includes, for example, *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1

strain (NCIMB10515) and so forth. The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) is available from National Collections of Industrial and Marine Bacteria (Address: NCIMB Ltd., Torry Research Station 135, Abbey Road, Aberdeen AB9 8DG, United Kingdom).

L-Amino acids produced according to the present invention include L-lysine, L-glutamic acid, L-threonine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, L-tryptophan, L-phenylalanine, L-tyrosine and so forth. One or more types of such amino acids may be produced.

*Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability can be obtained by imparting L-amino acid-producing ability to wild strains of *Methylophilus* bacteria. In order to impart L-amino acid-producing ability, there can be used methods conventionally adopted for breeding coryneform bacteria, *Escherichia* bacteria or the like, such as those methods for obtaining auxotrophic mutant strains, strains resistant to L-amino acid analogues or metabolic control mutant strains, and methods for producing recombinant strains wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activities are enhanced (see "Amino Acid Fermentation", the Japan Scientific Societies Press [Gakkai Shuppan Center], 1st Edition, published on May 30, 1986, pp.77 to 100). In breeding of amino acid-producing bacteria, the characteristic such as auxotrophy, L-amino acid analogue resistance and metabolic control mutation may be imparted alone or in combination of two or more. The L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity may be enhanced



alone or in combination of two or more. Further,  
imparting of the characteristic such as auxotrophy, L-  
amino acid analogue resistance and metabolic control  
mutation may be combined with enhancement of the L-amino  
5 acid biosynthesis enzyme activity.

For example, L-lysine-producing bacteria are bred  
as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for L-homoserine or L-  
threonine and L-methionine (Japanese Patent Publication  
(Kokoku) Nos. 48-28078/1973 and 56-6499/1981), mutants  
10 exhibiting auxotrophy for inositol or acetic acid  
(Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 55-  
9784/1980 and 56-8692/1981), or mutants that are  
resistant to oxalysine, lysine hydroxamate, S-(2-  
aminoethyl)-cysteine,  $\gamma$ -methyllysine,  $\alpha$ -  
15 chlorocaprolactam, DL- $\alpha$ -amino- $\epsilon$ -caprolactam,  $\alpha$ -amino-  
lauryllactam, aspartic acid analogue, sulfa drug,  
quinoid or N-lauroylleucine.

Further, L-glutamic acid-producing bacteria can be  
bred as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for oleic acid or  
20 the like. L-Threonine-producing bacteria can be bred as  
mutants resistant to  $\alpha$ -amino- $\beta$ -hydroxyvaleric acid. L-  
Homoserine-producing bacteria can be bred as mutants  
exhibiting auxotrophy for L-threonine or mutants  
resistant to L-phenylalanine analogues. L-  
25 Phenylalanine-producing bacteria can be bred as mutants  
exhibiting auxotrophy for L-tyrosine. L-Isoleucine-  
producing bacteria can be bred as mutants exhibiting  
auxotrophy for L-leucine. L-Proline-producing bacteria  
can be bred as mutants exhibiting auxotrophy for L-

isoleucine.

Furthermore, as mentioned in the examples hereinafter, strains that produce one or more kinds of branched amino acids (L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine) can be obtained as strains exhibiting auxotrophy for casamino acid.

In order to obtain mutants from *Methylophilus* bacteria, the inventors of the present invention first examined details of an optimal mutagenesis condition by using emergence frequency of streptomycin resistant strains as an index. As a result, the maximum emergence frequency of streptomycin resistant strains was obtained when the survival rate after mutagenesis was about 0.5%, and they succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic strains under this condition. They also succeeded in obtaining auxotrophic strains, which had been considered difficult, by largely scaling up the screening of mutants compared with that previously conducted for *E. coli* and so forth.

As described above, since it has been revealed that mutants can be obtained by mutagenizing *Methylophilus* bacteria under a suitable condition, it has become possible to readily obtain desired mutants by suitably setting such a condition that the survival rate after the mutagenesis should become about 0.5%, depending on the mutagenesis method.

Mutagenesis methods for obtaining mutants from *Methylophilus* bacteria include UV irradiation and treatments with mutagenesis agents used for usual mutagenesis treatments such as *N*-methyl-*N'*-nitro-*N*-

nitrosoguanidine (NTG) and nitrous acid. *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability can also be obtained by selecting naturally occurring mutants of *Methylophilus* bacteria.

5        L-Amino acid analogue-resistant mutants can be obtained by, for example, inoculating mutagenized *Methylophilus* bacteria to an agar medium containing an L-amino acid analogue at a variety of concentrations and selecting strains that form colonies.

10       Auxotrophic mutants can be obtained by allowing *Methylophilus* bacteria to form colonies on an agar medium containing a target nutrient (for example, L-amino acid), replicating the colonies to an agar medium not containing said nutrient, and selecting strains that  
15 cannot grow on the agar medium not containing the nutrient.

Methods for imparting or enhancing L-amino acid-producing ability by enhancing L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity will be exemplified below.

20

#### [L-Lysine]

L-Lysine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, enhancing dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and/or aspartokinase activity.

25       The dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and/or the aspartokinase activity in *Methylophilus* bacteria can be enhanced by ligating a gene fragment coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase and/or a gene fragment coding for aspartokinase with a vector that functions in

*Methylophilus* bacteria, preferably a multiple copy type vector, to create a recombinant DNA, and introducing them into a *Methylophilus* bacterium host to transform the host. As a result of the increase in the copy numbers of the gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase and/or the gene coding for aspartokinase in cells of the transformant strain, the activity or activities thereof is/are enhanced. Hereafter, dihydrodipicolinate synthase, aspartokinase and aspartokinase III are also referred with abbreviations of DDPS, AK and AKIII, respectively.

As a microorganism providing a gene that codes for DDPS and a gene that codes for AK, any microorganisms can be used so long as they have genes enabling expression of DDPS activity and AK activity in microorganisms belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*. Such microorganisms may be wild strains or mutant strains derived therefrom. Specifically, examples of such microorganisms include *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) K-12 strain, *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) and so forth. Since nucleotide sequences of a gene coding for DDPS (*dapA*, Richaud, F. et al., J. Bacteriol., 297, (1986)) and a gene coding for AKIII (*lysC*, Cassan, M., Parsot, C., Cohen, G.N. and Patte, J.C., J. Biol. Chem., 261, 1052 (1986)) derived from *Escherichia* bacteria have been both revealed, these genes can be obtained by PCR using primers synthesized based on the nucleotide sequences of these genes and chromosome DNA of microorganism such as *E. coli* K-12 or

the like as a template. As specific examples, *dapA* and *lysC* derived from *E. coli* will be explained below. However, genes used for the present invention are not limited to them.

5           It is preferred that DDPS and AK used for the present invention do not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine. It has been known that wild-type DDPS derived from *E. coli* suffers feedback inhibition by L-lysine, and that wild-type AKIII derived from *E. coli* suffers suppression and feedback inhibition by L-lysine.  
10           Therefore, *dapA* and *lysC* to be introduced into *Methylophilus* bacteria preferably code for DDPS and AKIII having a mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-lysine. Hereafter, DDPS having a  
15           mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-lysine is also referred to as "mutant DDPS", and DNA coding for the mutant DDPS is also referred to as "mutant *dapA*". AKIII derived from *E. coli* having a mutation that desensitizes the feedback inhibition by L-  
20           lysine is also referred to as "mutant AKIII", and DNA coding for the mutant AKIII is also referred to as "mutant *lysC*".

          According to the present invention, DDPS and AK are not necessarily required to be a mutant. It has  
25           been known that, for example, DDPS derived from *Corynebacterium* bacteria originally does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.

          A nucleotide sequence of wild-type *dapA* derived from *E. coli* is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 1. The amino

acid sequence of wild-type DDPS coded by said nucleotide sequence is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 2. A nucleotide sequence of wild-type *lycC* derived from *E. coli* is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 3. The amino acid sequence of wild-type ATIII coded by said nucleotide sequence is exemplified by SEQ ID NO: 4.

The DNA coding for mutant DDPS that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine includes a DNA coding for DDPS having the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 wherein the 118-histidine residue is replaced with a tyrosine residue. The DNA coding for mutant AKIII that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine includes a DNA coding for AKIII having an amino sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein the 352-threonine residue is replaced with an isoleucine residue.

The plasmid used for gene cloning may be any plasmid so long as it can replicate in microorganisms such as *Escherichia* bacteria or the like, and specifically include pBR322, pTWV228, pMW119, pUC19 and so forth.

The vector that functions in *Methylophilus* bacteria is, for example, a plasmid that can autonomously replicate in *Methylophilus* bacteria. Specifically, there can be mentioned RSF1010, which is a broad host spectrum vector, and derivatives thereof, for example, pAYC32 (Chistorerdov, A.Y., Tsygankov, Y.D. Plasmid, 16, 161-167, (1986)), pMFY42 (Gene, 44, 53, (1990)), pRP301, pTB70 (Nature, 287, 396, (1980)) and so forth.

In order to prepare a recombinant DNA by ligating *dapA* and *lysC* to a vector that functions in *Methylophilus* bacteria, the vector is digested with a restriction enzyme that corresponds to the terminus of DNA fragment containing *dapA* and *lysC*. Ligation is usually performed by using ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. *dapA* and *lysC* may be individually incorporated into separate vectors or into a single vector.

As a plasmid containing a mutant *dapA* coding for mutant DDPS and a mutant *lysC* coding for mutant AKIII, a broad host spectrum plasmid RSFD80 has been known (WO95/16042). *E. coli* JM109 strain transformed with this plasmid was designated as AJ12396, and deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on October 28, 1993 and received an accession number of FERM P-13936, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on November 1, 1994, and received an accession number of FERM BP-4859. RSFD80 can be obtained from the AJ12396 strain in a known manner.

The mutant *dapA* contained in RSFD80 has a nucleotide sequence of wild-type *dapA* of SEQ ID NO: 1 including replacement of C at the nucleotide number 597 with T. The mutant DDPS encoded thereby has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 including replacement of the 118-histidine residue with a tyrosine residue. The

mutant *lysC* contained in RSFD80 has a nucleotide sequence of wild-type *lysC* of SEQ ID NO: 3 including replacement of C at the nucleotide number 1638 with T. The mutant AKIII encoded thereby has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 including replacement of the 352-threonine residue with an isoleucine residue.

In order to introduce a recombinant DNA prepared as described above into *Methylophilus* bacteria, any method can be used so long as it provides sufficient transformation efficiency. For example, electroporation can be used (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43, 197 (1997)).

The DDPS activity and/or the AK activity can also be enhanced by the presence of multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* on chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus* bacteria. In order to introduce multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* into chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus* bacteria, homologous recombination is performed by using, as a target, a sequence that is present on chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus* bacteria in a multiple copy number. As the sequence present on chromosome DNA in the multiple copy number, a repetitive DNA, inverted repeats present at the end of a transposable element, or the like can be used. Alternatively, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 2-109985/1990, multiple copies of *dapA* and/or *lysC* can be introduced into chromosome DNA by mounting them on a transposon to transfer them. In both of the methods, as a result of increased copy number of *dapA* and/or *lysC* in transformed



strains, the DDPS activity and the AK activity should be amplified.

Besides the above gene amplification, the DDPS activity and/or the AK activity can be amplified by replacing an expression control sequence such as promoters of *dapA* and/or *lysC* with stronger ones (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 1-215280/1989). As such strong promoters, there have been known, for example, *lac* promoter, *trp* promoter, *trc* promoter, *tac* promoter,  $P_R$  promoter and  $P_L$  promoter of lambda phage, *tet* promoter, *amyE* promoter, *spac* promoter and so forth. Substitution of these promoters enhances expression of *dapA* and/or *lysC*, and thus the DDPS activity and the AK activity are amplified. Enhancement of expression control sequences can be combined with increase of the copy numbers of *dapA* and/or *lysC*.

In order to prepare a recombinant DNA by ligating a gene fragment and a vector, the vector is digested with a restriction enzyme corresponding to the terminus of the gene fragment. Ligation is usually performed by ligase such as T4 DNA ligase. As methods for digestion, ligation and others of DNA, preparation of chromosome DNA, PCR, preparation of plasmid DNA, transformation, design of oligonucleotides used as primers and so forth, usual methods well known to those skilled in the art can be used. Such methods are described in Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E. F., and Maniatis, T., "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1989) and so forth.

In addition to the enhancement of the DDPS activity and/or the AK activity, activity of another enzyme involved in the L-lysine biosynthesis may also be enhanced. Such enzymes include diaminopimelate pathway enzymes such as dihydrodipicolinate reductase, diaminopimelate decarboxylase, diaminopimelate dehydrogenase (WO96/40934 for all of the foregoing enzymes), phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 60-87788/1985), aspartate aminotransferase (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 6-102028/1994), diaminopimelate epimerase, aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase and so forth, or aminoadipate pathway enzymes such as homoaconitate hydratase and so forth. Preferably, activity of at least one enzyme of aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is enhanced.

Aspartokinase, aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate synthase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* will be described later.

Further, the microorganisms of the present invention may be decreased in activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction for generating a compound other than L-lysine by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway of L-lysine, or may be deficient in such an enzyme. The enzyme that catalyzes the reaction for generating the compound other than L-lysine by branching

off from the biosynthetic pathway L-lysine include  
homoserine dehydrogenase (see WO95/23864).

The aforementioned techniques for enhancing  
activity of an enzyme involved in the L-lysine  
5 biosynthesis can be similarly used for other amino acids  
mentioned below.

[L-Glutamic acid]

L-Glutamic acid-producing ability can be imparted  
10 to *Methylophilus* bacteria by, for example, introducing a  
DNA that codes for any one of enzymes including  
glutamate dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application  
Laid-open (Kokai) 61-268185/1986), glutamine synthetase,  
glutamate synthase, isocitrate dehydrogenase (Japanese  
15 Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 62-166890/1987  
and 63-214189/1988), aconitate hydratase (Japanese  
Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 62-294086/1987),  
citrate synthase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open  
(Kokai) Nos. 62-201585/1987 and 63-119688/1988),  
20 phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase (Japanese Patent  
Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 60-87788/1985 and 62-  
55089/1987), pyruvate dehydrogenase, pyruvate kinase,  
phosphoenolpyruvate synthase, enolase,  
phosphoglyceromutase, phosphoglycerate kinase,  
25 glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, triose  
phosphate isomerase, fructose bisphosphate aldolase,  
phosphofructokinase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-  
open (Kokai) No. 63-102692/1988), glucose phosphate  
isomerase, glutamine-oxoglutarate aminotransferase

(WO99/07853) and so forth.

Further, the microorganisms of the present invention may be decreased in activity of an enzyme that catalyzes a reaction for generating a compound other than L-glutamic acid by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway of L-glutamic acid, or may be deficient in such an enzyme. The enzyme that catalyzes the reaction for generating the compound other than L-glutamic acid by branching off from the biosynthetic pathway L-glutamic acid include  $\alpha$ -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase ( $\alpha$ KGDH), isocitrate lyase, phosphate acetyltransferase, acetate kinase, acetohydroxy acid synthase, acetolactate synthase, formate acetyltransferase, lactate dehydrogenase, glutamate decarboxylase, 1-pyrroline dehydrogenase and so forth.

#### [L-Threonine]

L-Threonine-producing ability can be imparted or enhanced by, for example, enhancing activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase. The activities of these enzymes can be enhanced by, for example, transforming *Methylophilus* bacteria using a recombinant plasmid containing a threonine operon (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 55-131397/1980, 59-31691/1984 and 56-15696/1981 and Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991).

The production ability can also be imparted or enhanced by amplifying or introducing a threonine operon

having a gene coding for aspartokinase of which feedback inhibition by L-threonine is desensitized (Japanese Patent Publication (Kokoku) No. 1-29559/1989), a gene coding for homoserine dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 60-012995/1985) or a gene coding for homoserine kinase and homoserine dehydrogenase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 61-195695/1986).

Further, L-threonine-producing ability can be improved by introducing a DNA coding for a mutant phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase having a mutation for desensitizing feedback inhibition by aspartic acid.

#### [L-Valine]

L-Valine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, introducing into *Methylophilus* bacteria an L-valine biosynthesis gene whose control mechanism has been substantially desensitized. There may also be introduced a mutation that substantially desensitizes a control mechanism of an L-valine biosynthesis gene carried by a microorganism belonging to the genus *Methylophilus*.

Examples of the L-valine biosynthesis gene include, for example, the *ilvGMEDA* operon of *E. coli*. Threonine deaminase encoded by an *ilvA* gene catalyzes the deamination reaction converting L-threonine into 2-ketobutyric acid, which is the rate-determining step of L-isoleucine biosynthesis. Therefore, in order to attain efficient progression of the L-valine synthesis

reactions, it is preferable to use an operon that does not express threonine deaminase activity. Examples of the *ilvGMEDA* operon that does not express such threonine deaminase activity include an *ilvGMEDA* operon wherein a  
5 mutation for eliminating threonine deaminase activity is introduced into *ilvA*, or *ilvA* is disrupted, and an *ilvGMED* operon wherein *ilvA* is deleted.

Since the *ilvGMEDA* operon suffers expression control of operon (attenuation) by L-valine and/or L-isoleucine and/or L-leucine, the region required for the  
10 attenuation is preferably removed or mutated to desensitize the suppression of expression by L-valine.

An *ilvGMEDA* operon which does not express threonine deaminase activity and in which attenuation is  
15 desensitized as described above can be obtained by subjecting a wild-type *ilvGMEDA* operon to a mutagenesis treatment or modifying it by means of gene recombination techniques (see WO96/06926).

## 20 [L-Leucine]

L-Leucine-producing ability is imparted or enhanced by, for example, introducing into a microorganism belonging to the genus *Methylophilus* an L-leucine biosynthesis gene whose control mechanism has  
25 been substantially desensitized, in addition to the above characteristics required for the production of L-valine. It is also possible to introduce such a mutation that the control mechanism of an L-leucine biosynthesis gene in a microorganism belonging to the

genus *Methylophilus* should be substantially eliminated. Examples of such a gene include, for example, an *leuA* gene which provides an enzyme in which inhibition by L-leucine is substantially eliminated.

5

[L-Isoleucine]

L-Isoleucine-producing ability can be imparted by, for example, introducing a *thrABC* operon containing a *thrA* gene coding for aspartokinase I/homoserine  
 10 dehydrogenase I derived from *E. coli* wherein inhibition by L-threonine has been substantially desensitized and an *ilvGMEDA* operon which contains an *ilvA* gene coding for threonine deaminase wherein inhibition by L-  
 15 isoleucine is substantially desensitized and whose region required for attenuation is removed (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) No. 8-47397/1996).

[Other amino acids]

Biosyntheses of L-tryptophan, L-phenylalanine, L-  
 20 tyrosine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine can be enhanced by increasing phosphoenolpyruvate-producing ability of *Methylophilus* bacteria (WO97/08333).

The production abilities for L-phenylalanine and L-tyrosine are improved by amplifying or introducing a  
 25 desensitized chorismate mutase-prephenate dehydratase (CM-PDT) gene (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 5-236947/1993 and 62-130693/1987) and a desensitized 3-deoxy-D-arabinoheptulonate-7-phosphate synthase (DS) gene (Japanese Patent Application Laid-

open (Kokai) Nos. 5-236947/1993 and 61-124375/1986).

The producing ability of L-tryptophan is improved by amplifying or introducing a tryptophan operon containing a gene coding for desensitized anthranilate  
5 synthase (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kokai) Nos. 57-71397/1982, 62-244382/1987 and US Patent No. 4,371,614).

In the present specification, the expression that enzyme "activity is enhanced" usually refers to that the  
10 intracellular activity of the enzyme is higher than that of a wild type strain, and when a strain in which the activity of the enzyme is enhanced is obtained by modification using gene recombinant techniques or the like, the intracellular activity of the enzyme is higher  
15 than that of the strain before the modification. The expression that enzyme "activity is decreased" usually refers to that the intracellular activity of the enzyme is lower than that of a wild type strain, and when a strain in which the activity of the enzyme is decreased  
20 is obtained by modification using gene recombinant techniques or the like, the intracellular activity of the enzyme is lower than that of the strain before the modification.

L-Amino acids can be produced by culturing  
25 *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability obtained as described above in a medium to produce and accumulate L-amino acids in the culture, and collecting the L-amino acids from the culture.

Bacterial cells of *Methylophilus* bacteria with an



increased L-amino acid content compared with wild strains of *Methylophilus* bacteria can be produced by culturing *Methylophilus* bacteria having L-amino acid-producing ability in a medium to produce and accumulate  
5 L-amino acids in bacterial cells of the bacteria.

Microorganisms used for the present invention can be cultured by methods usually used for culturing microorganisms having methanol-assimilating property. The medium used for the present invention may be a  
10 natural or synthetic medium so long as it contains a carbon source, a nitrogen source, inorganic ions and other trace amount organic constituents as required.

By using methanol as a main carbon source, L-amino acids can be prepared at a low cost. When methanol is  
15 used as a main carbon source, it is usually added to a medium in an amount of 0.001 to 30%. As the nitrogen source, ammonium sulfate or the like is used by adding it to the medium. Other than these, there are usually added small amounts of the trace amount constituents  
20 such as potassium phosphate, sodium phosphate, magnesium sulfate, ferrous sulfate and manganese sulfate.

The culture is usually performed under an aerobic condition obtained by, for example, shaking or stirring for aeration, at pH 5 to 9 and a temperature of 20 to  
25 45°C, and it is usually completed within 24 to 120 hours.

Collection of L-amino acids from culture can be usually attained by a combination of known methods such as those using ion exchange resin, precipitation and others.

Further, *Methylophilus* bacterium cells can be separated from the medium by usual methods for separating microbial cells.

5 <2> Gene of the present invention

The DNA of the present invention is a gene which codes for one of the enzymes, aspartokinase (henceforth also abbreviated as "AK"), aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase (henceforth also abbreviated as "ASD"),  
10 dihydrodipicolinate synthase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DDPS"), dihydrodipicolinate reductase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DDPR"), and diaminopimelate decarboxylase (henceforth also abbreviated as "DPDC") derived from *Methylophilus*  
15 *methylophilus*.

The DNA of the present invention can be obtained by, for example, transforming a mutant strain of a microorganism deficient in AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC using a gene library of *Methylophilus methylophilus*,  
20 and selecting a clone in which auxotrophy is recovered.

A gene library of *Methylophilus methylophilus* can be produced as follows, for example. First, total chromosome DNA is prepared from a *Methylophilus methylophilus* wild strain, for example, the  
25 *Methylophilus methylophilus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515), by the method of Saito et al. (Saito, H. and Miura, K., Biochem. Biophys. Acta 72, 619-629, (1963)) or the like, and partially digested with a suitable restriction enzyme, for example, *Sau3AI* or *AluI*, to obtain a mixture

of various fragments. By controlling the degree of the digestion through adjustment of digestion reaction time and so forth, a wide range of restriction enzymes can be used.

5           Subsequently, the digested chromosome DNA fragments are ligated to vector DNA autonomously replicable in *Escherichia coli* cells to produce recombinant DNA. Specifically, a restriction enzyme producing the same terminal nucleotide sequence as that  
10           produced by the restriction enzyme used for the digestion of chromosome DNA is allowed to act on the vector DNA to fully digest and cleave the vector. Then, the mixture of chromosome DNA fragments and the digested and cleaved vector DNA are mixed, and a ligase,  
15           preferably T4 DNA ligase, is allowed to act on the mixture to obtain recombinant DNA.

          A gene library solution can be obtained by transforming *Escherichia coli*, for example, the *Escherichia coli* JM109 strain or the like, using the  
20           obtained recombinant DNA, and preparing recombinant DNA from the culture broth of the transformant. This transformation can be performed by the method of D.M. Morrison (Methods in Enzymology 68, 326 (1979)), the method of treating recipient cells with calcium chloride  
25           so as to increase the permeability of DNA (Mandel, M. and Higa, A., J. Mol. Biol., 53, 159 (1970)) and so forth. In the examples mentioned hereinafter, electroporation was used.

          As examples of the aforementioned vector, there

can be mentioned pUC19, pUC18, pUC118, pUC119, pBR322, pHSG299, pHSG298, pHSG399, pHSG398, RSF1010, pMW119, pMW118, pMW219, pMW218, pSTV28, pSTV29 and so forth. Phage vectors can also be used. Since pUC118 and pUC119  
 5 contain an ampicillin resistance gene, and pSTV28 and pSTV29 contain a chloramphenicol resistance gene, for example, only transformants which harbor a vector or a recombinant DNA can be grown by using a medium containing ampicillin or chloramphenicol.

10 As the method for culturing the transformants and collecting recombinant DNA from bacterial cells, the alkali SDS method and the like can be mentioned.

A mutant microbial strain deficient in AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC is transformed by using the gene  
 15 library solution of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* obtained as described above, and clones whose auxotrophy is recovered are selected.

Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in AK include *E. coli* GT3 deficient in three kinds of genes  
 20 coding for AK (*thrA*, *metLM*, *lysC*). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in ASD include *E. coli* Hfr3000 U482 (CGSC 5081 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in DDPS include *E. coli* AT997 (CGSC 4547 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial  
 25 strain deficient in DDPR include *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain). Examples of a mutant microbial strain deficient in DPDC include *E. coli* AT2453 (CGSC 4505 strain). These mutant strains can be obtained from *E. coli* Genetic Stock Center (the Yale University,

Department of Biology, Osborn Memorial Labs., P.O. Box 6666, New Haven 06511-7444, Connecticut, U.S.).

Although all of the aforementioned mutant strains cannot grow in M9 minimal medium, transformant strains which contain a gene coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can grow in M9 minimal medium because these genes function in the transformants. Therefore, by selecting transformant strains that can grow in the minimal medium and collecting recombinant DNA from the strains, DNA fragments containing a gene that codes for each enzyme can be obtained. *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain) shows extremely slow growth rate even in a complete medium such as L medium when diaminopimelic acid is not added to the medium. However, normal growth can be observed for its transformant strains which contain a gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*, because of the function of the gene. Therefore, a transformant strain that contains a gene coding for DDPR can also be obtained by selecting a transformant strain normally grown in L medium.

By extracting an insert DNA fragment from the obtained recombinant DNA and determining its nucleotide sequence, an amino acid sequence of each enzyme and nucleotide sequence of the gene coding for it can be determined.

The gene coding for AK of the present invention (henceforth also referred to "ask") codes for AK which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the ask gene,

there can be mentioned a DNA having the nucleotide sequence which consists of nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 5. The *ask* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

The gene which codes for ASD of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*asd*") codes for ASD which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *asd* gene, a DNA which contains the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 98-1207 in SEQ ID NO: 7 can be mentioned. The *asd* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

The gene which codes for DDPS of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapA*") codes for DDPS which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapA* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 1268-2155 in SEQ ID NO: 9 can be mentioned. The *dapA* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for

the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

The gene which codes for DDBR of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*dapB*") codes for DDBR which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *dapB* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 in SEQ ID NO: 11 can be mentioned. The *dapB* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12.

The gene which codes for DPDC of the present invention (henceforth also referred to as "*lysA*") codes for DPDC which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 shown in Sequence Listing. As a specific example of the *lysA* gene, a DNA which has the nucleotide sequence consisting of the nucleotides of the nucleotide numbers 751-1995 in SEQ ID NO: 13 can be mentioned. The *lysA* gene of the present invention may have a sequence in which codon corresponding to each of the amino acids is replaced with equivalent codon so long as it codes for the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14.

The gene for each enzyme of the present invention may have an amino acid sequence corresponding to each amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, 8, 10, 12 or 14

including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and may code a protein having activity of AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC. The expression "one or several" used herein preferably means a number of 1 to 10, more preferably a number of 1 to 5, more preferably a number of 1 to 2.

The DNA which codes for the substantially same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC such as those mentioned above can be obtained by modifying each nucleotide sequence so that the amino acid sequence should contain substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of an amino acid residue or residues at a particular site by, for example, site-specific mutagenesis. Such a modified DNA as mentioned above may also be obtained by a conventional mutagenesis treatment. Examples of the mutagenesis treatment include in vitro treatment of DNA coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC with hydroxylamine or the like, treatment of a microorganism such as *Escherichia* bacteria containing a gene coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC by UV irradiation or with mutagenesis agents used for usual mutagenesis treatment such as N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (NTG) and nitrous acid.

The aforementioned substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of nucleotides includes naturally occurring mutations (mutant or variant) such as those observed depending difference between species or strains of microorganisms containing AK, ASD, DDPS,



DDPR or DPDC and so forth.

The DNA which codes for substantially the same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can be obtained by allowing expression of a DNA having such a mutation as mentioned above in a suitable cell, and examining AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity of the expression product. The DNA which codes for substantially the same protein as AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC can also be obtained by isolating, from DNAs coding for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC which have mutations or cells containing each of them, a DNA hybridizable with a probe containing a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510-1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5, a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98-1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7, a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268-2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9, a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080-2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11, or a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751-1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13, or a part of those nucleotide sequences under a stringent condition, and coding for a protein having AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity. In the present specification, to have a nucleotide sequence or a part thereof means to have the nucleotide sequence or the part thereof, or a nucleotide complementary thereto.

The term "stringent condition" used herein means a

condition that allows formation of so-called specific hybrid and does not allow formation of non-specific hybrid. This condition may vary depending on the nucleotide sequence and length of the probe. However,  
5 it may be, for example, a condition that allows hybridization of highly homologous DNA such as DNA having homology of 40% or higher, but does not allow hybridization of DNA of lower homology than defined above, or a condition that allows hybridization under a  
10 washing condition of usual Southern hybridization, of a temperature of 60°C and salt concentrations corresponding to 1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS, preferably 0.1 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

A partial sequence of each gene can also be used  
15 as the probe. Such a probe can be produced by PCR (polymerase chain reaction) using oligonucleotides produced based on a nucleotide sequence of each gene as primers and a DNA fragment containing each gene as a template. When a DNA fragment having a length of about  
20 300 bp is used as the probe, washing condition for hybridization may be, for example, 50°C, 2 x SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Genes that hybridize under such a condition as mentioned above also include those having a stop codon  
25 occurring in its sequence and those encoding an enzyme no longer having its activity due to a mutation of active center. However, such genes can readily be eliminated by ligating the genes to a commercially available activity expression vector, and measuring AK,

ASD, DDPS, DDPR or DPDC activity.

Since the nucleotide sequences of the genes that codes for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR and DPDC derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* were revealed by the present invention, DNA sequences which code for AK, ASD, DDPS, DDPR and DPDC can be obtained from a *Methylophilus methylotrophus* gene library by hybridization using oligonucleotide probes produced based on the sequences. Moreover, DNA sequences which code for these enzymes can also be obtained by amplifying them from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* chromosome DNA by PCR using oligonucleotide primers produced based on the aforementioned nucleotide sequences.

The aforementioned genes can suitably be utilized to enhance L-lysine-producing ability of *Methylophilus* bacteria.

#### EXAMPLES

The present invention will further specifically be explained with reference to the following examples hereafter.

The reagents used were obtained from Wako Pure Chemicals or Nakarai Tesque unless otherwise indicated. The compositions of the media used in each example are shown below. pH was adjusted with NaOH or HCl for all media.

(L medium)

Bacto trypton (DIFCO)                      10 g/L

Yeast extract (DIFCO)                    5 g/L  
 NaCl    5 g/L  
 [steam-sterilized at 120°C for 20 minutes]

5    (L agar medium)

L medium

Bacto agar (DIFCO)                    15 g/L  
 [steam-sterilized at 120°C for 20 minutes]

10   (SOC medium)

Bacto trypton (DIFCO)                20 g/L  
 Yeast extract (DIFCO)                5 g/L

10 mM    NaCl

2.5 mM   KCl

15   10 mM    MgSO<sub>4</sub>

10 mM    MgCl<sub>2</sub>

20 mM    Glucose

[The constituents except for magnesium solution and glucose were steam-sterilized (120°C, 20 minutes), then  
 20   2 M magnesium stock solution (1 M MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 1 M MgCl<sub>2</sub>) and  
 2 M glucose solution, which solutions had been passed through a 0.22- $\mu$ m filter, were added thereto, and the mixture was passed through a 0.22- $\mu$ m filter again.]

25   (121M1 medium)

K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>                    1.2 g/L

KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>                    0.62 g/L

NaCl                        0.1 g/L

(NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>                0.5 g/L

	MgSO <sub>4</sub> •7H <sub>2</sub> O	0.2 g/L
	CaCl <sub>2</sub> •6H <sub>2</sub> O	0.05 g/L
	FeCl <sub>3</sub> •6H <sub>2</sub> O	1.0 mg/L
	H <sub>3</sub> BO <sub>3</sub>	10 µg/L
5	CuSO <sub>4</sub> •5H <sub>2</sub> O	5 µg/L
	MnSO <sub>4</sub> •5H <sub>2</sub> O	10 µg/L
	ZnSO <sub>4</sub> •7H <sub>2</sub> O	70 µg/L
	NaMoO <sub>4</sub> •2H <sub>2</sub> O	10 µg/L
	CoCl <sub>2</sub> •6H <sub>2</sub> O	5 µg/L
10	Methanol 1% (vol/vol), pH 7.0	
	[The constituents except for methanol were steam-sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. After the constituents sufficiently cooled, methanol was added.]	
15	(Composition of 121 production medium)	
	Methanol	2%
	Dipotassium phosphate	0.12%
	Potassium phosphate	0.062%
	Calcium chloride hexahydrate	0.005%
20	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	0.02%
	Sodium chloride	0.01%
	Ferric chloride hexahydrate	1.0 mg/L
	Ammonium sulfate	0.3%
	Cupric sulfate pentahydrate	5 µg/L
25	Manganous sulfate pentahydrate	10 µg/L
	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	10 µg/L
	Boric acid	10 µg/L
	Zinc sulfate heptahydrate	70 µg/L
	Cobaltous chloride hexahydrate	5 µg/L

Calcium carbonate (Kanto Kagaku) 3%

(pH 7.0)

(121M1 Agar medium)

5 121M1 medium

Bacto agar (DIFCO) 15 g/L

[The constituents except for methanol were steam-sterilized at 121°C for 15 minutes. After the constituents sufficiently cooled, methanol was added.]

10

(M9 minimal medium)

$\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 \cdot 12\text{H}_2\text{O}$  16 g/L

$\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  3 g/L

$\text{NaCl}$  0.5 g/L

15  $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  1 g/L

$\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$  246.48 mg/L

Glucose 2 g/L

pH 7.0

[ $\text{MgSO}_4$  and glucose were separately sterilized (120°C, 20 minutes) and added. A suitable amount of amino acids and vitamins were added as required.]

(M9 minimal agar medium)

M9 minimal medium

25 Bacto agar (DIFCO) 15 g/L

### Example 1

Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (1)

(1) Introduction of mutant *lysc* and mutant *dapA* into

*Methylophilus bacterium*

A mutant *lysC* and a mutant *dapA* were introduced into a *Methylophilus bacterium* by using a known plasmid RSFD80 (see WO95/16042) containing them. RSFD80 is a  
5 plasmid pVIC40 (International Publication WO90/04636, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) derived from a broad host spectrum vector plasmid pAYC32 (Chistorerdov, A.Y., Tsygankov, Y.D., Plasmid, 16, 161-167, (1986)), which is a derivative of  
10 RSF1010, in which a mutant *dapA* and a mutant *lysC* derived from *E. coli* are located in this order downstream of the promoter (tetP) of the tetracycline resistance gene of pVIC40 so that the transcription directions of the genes are ordinary with respect to  
15 tetP. The mutant *dapA* coded for a mutant DDPS in which the 118-histidine residue was replaced with a tyrosine residue. The mutant *lysC* coded for a mutant AKIII in which the 352-threonine residue was replaced with an isoleucine residue.

20 RSFD80 was constructed as follows. The mutant *dapA* on a plasmid pdapAS24 was ligated to pVIC40 at a position downstream of the promoter of the tetracycline resistance gene to obtain RSF24P as shown in Fig. 1. Then, the plasmid RSFD80 which had the mutant *dapA* and a  
25 mutant *lysC* was prepared from RSF24P and pLLC\*80 containing the mutant *lysC* as shown in Fig. 2. That is, while pVIC40 contains a threonine operon, this threonine operon is replaced with a DNA fragment containing the mutant *dapA* and a DNA fragment containing the mutant

lysC in RSFD80.

The *E. coli* JM109 strain transformed with the RSFD80 plasmid was designated as AJ12396, and deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on October 28, 1993 and received an accession number of FERM P-13936, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on November 1, 1994, and received an accession number of FERM BP-4859.

The *E. coli* AJ1239 strain was cultured in 30 ml of LB medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin at 30°C for 12 hours, and the RSFD80 plasmid was purified from the obtained cells by using Wizard® Plus Midipreps DNA Purification System (sold by Promega).

The RSFD80 plasmid produced as described above was introduced into the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by electroporation (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43, 197 (1997)). As a control, a DNA region coding for the threonine operon was deleted from the pVIC40 plasmid used for producing the RSFD80 plasmid to produce a pRS plasmid comprising only the vector region (see Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991), and the pRS plasmid was introduced into the AS1 strain in the same manner as that used for RSFD80.



(2) AKIII Activity of *Methylophilus* bacterium containing mutant *lysC* and mutant *dapA* derived from *E. coli*

Cell-free extracts were prepared from the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain containing the RSFD80 plasmid (also referred to as "AS1/RSFD80" hereinafter) and the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain containing the pRS plasmid (also referred to as "AS1/pRS" hereinafter), and AK activity was measured. The cell-free extracts (crude enzyme solutions) were prepared as follows. The AS1/RSFD80 strain and AS1/pRS strain were each inoculated to 121 production medium of the above composition containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, cultured at 37°C for 34 hours with shaking, and then calcium carbonate was removed and cells were harvested.

The bacterial cells obtained as described above were washed with 0.2% KCl under a condition of 0°C, suspended in 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7) containing 10 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.8 M (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and 0.03 M β-mercaptoethanol, and disrupted by sonication (0°C, 200 W, 10 minutes). The sonicated cell suspension was centrifuged at 33,000 rpm for 30 minutes under a condition of 0°C, and the supernatant was separated. To the supernatant, ammonium sulfate was added to 80% saturation, and the mixture was left at 0°C for 1 hour, and centrifuged. The pellet was dissolved in 20 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7) containing 10 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 0.8 M (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and 0.03 M β-mercaptoethanol.

The measurement of AK activity was performed in accordance with the method of Stadtman (Stadtman, E.R.,

Cohen, G.N., LeBras, G., and Robichon-Szulmajster, H., J. Biol. Chem., 236, 2033 (1961)). That is, a reaction solution of the following composition was incubated at 30°C for 45 minutes, and color development was caused by adding a FeCl<sub>3</sub> solution (2.8 N HCl: 0.4 ml, 12% TCA: 0.4 ml, 5% FeCl<sub>3</sub>•6H<sub>2</sub>O/0.1 N HCl: 0.7 ml). The reaction solution was centrifuged, and absorbance of the supernatant was measured at 540 nm. The activity was represented in terms of the amount of hydroxamic acid produced in 1 minute (1 U = 1 μmol/minute). The molar extinction coefficient was set to be 600. The reaction solution not containing potassium aspartate was used as a blank. When the enzymatic activity was measured, L-lysine was added to the enzymatic reaction solution at various concentrations to examine degree of inhibition by L-lysine. The results are shown in Table 1.

(Composition of reaction solution)

	Reaction mixture <sup>*1</sup>	0.3 ml
20	Hydroxylamine solution <sup>*2</sup>	0.2 ml
	0.1 M Potassium aspartate (pH 7.0)	0.2 ml
	Enzyme solution	0.1 ml
	Water (balance)	Total 1 ml
	<sup>*1</sup> : 1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.1): 9 ml, 0.3 M MgSO <sub>4</sub> : 0.5 ml and	
25	0.2 M ATP (pH 7.0): 5 ml	
	<sup>*2</sup> : 8 M Hydroxylamine solution neutralized with KOH immediately before use	

Table 1

Strain	AK activity (Specific activity <sup>*1</sup> )	Specific activity with 5 mM L-lysine	Desensitization degree of inhibition <sup>*2</sup> (%)
AS1/pRS	7.93	9.07	114
AS1/RSFD80	13.36	15.33	115

\*1: nmol/minute/mg protein

\*2: Activity retention ratio in the presence of 5 mM L-lysine

5

As shown in Table 1, AK activity was increased by about 1.7 times by the introduction of the RSFD80 plasmid. Further, it was confirmed that the inhibition by L-lysine was completely desensitized in AK derived from *E. coli* that was encoded by the RSFD80 plasmid. Moreover, it was found that AK that was originally retained by the AS1 strain was not inhibited by L-lysine alone. The inventors of the present invention have discovered that the AK derived from the AS1 strain was inhibited by 100% when 2 mM for each of L-lysine and L-threonine were present in the reaction solution (concerted inhibition).

(3) Production of L-lysine by *Methylophilus* bacterium containing mutant *lysC* and mutant *dapA* derived from *E. coli*

Then, the AS1/RSFD80 strain and the AS1/pRS strain were inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, and cultured at 37°C for 34 hours with shaking. After the culture was completed, the bacterial cells and calcium carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-lysine concentration in the

culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results are shown in Table 2.

5

Table 2

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (g/L)
AS1/pRS	0
AS1/RSFD80	0.3

### Example 2

Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (2)

- 10 (1) Introduction of *tac* promoter region into broad host spectrum vector

In order to produce a large amount of enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of L-lysine (Lys) in *Methylophilus methylotrophus*, *tac* promoter was used for  
15 gene expression of the target enzyme. The promoter is frequently used in *E. coli*.

The *tac* promoter region was obtained by amplification through PCR using DNA of pKK233-3 (Pharmacia) as a template, DNA fragments having the  
20 nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 15 and 16 as primers, and a heat-resistant DNA polymerase. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 60 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the amplified DNA fragment was  
25 collected and treated with restriction enzymes *EcoRI* and *PstI*. On the other hand, a broad host spectrum vector

pRS (see Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) was also digested with the same restriction enzymes, and the aforementioned DNA fragment which contained the *tac* promoter region was introduced  
5 into the restriction enzyme digestion termini to construct pRS-tac.

(2) Preparation of *dapA* gene (dihydrodipicolinate synthase gene) expression plasmid pRS-dapA24 and *lysC*  
10 gene (aspartokinase gene) expression plasmid pRS-lysC80

A mutant gene (*dapA\*24*) coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase whose feedback inhibition for the enzyme activity by Lys was partially desensitized was introduced into the plasmid pRS-tac  
15 which was prepared by the method described in the above (1).

First, the *dapA\*24* gene region was obtained by amplification through PCR using DNA of RSFD80 (see Example 1) as a template, and DNA fragments having the  
20 nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 17 and 18 as primers. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 90 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the fragment was treated with restriction enzymes *Sse8387I* and *XbaI* to  
25 prepare a *dapA\*24* gene fragment having corresponding cleaved termini. On the other hand, pRS-tac was also treated with *Sse8387I* and partially digested with *XbaI* in the same manner as described above. To this digested plasmid, the aforementioned *dapA\*24* gene fragment was

ligated by using T4 ligase to obtain pRS-dapA24.

Similarly, a gene (*lysC\*80*) coding for aspartokinase whose feedback inhibition for the enzyme activity by Lys was partially desensitized was obtained by PCR using DNA of RSFD80 as a template, and DNA fragments having the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 19 and 20 as primers. The PCR was performed with a cycle of 94°C for 20 seconds, 60°C for 30 seconds, and 72°C for 90 seconds, which was repeated 30 times. Then, the obtained DNA fragment was treated with restriction enzymes *Sse8387I* and *SapI*. On the other hand, the vector pRS-tac was also treated with *Sse8387I* and *SapI*. To this digested plasmid, the aforementioned *lysC\*80* gene fragment was ligated by using T4 ligase to obtain pRS-*lysC80*.

(3) Introduction of pRS-dapA24 or pRS-*lysC80* into *Methylophilus methylotrophus* and evaluation of culture

Each of pRS-dapA24 and pRS-*lysC80* obtained as described above was introduced into the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by electroporation to obtain AS1/pRS-dapA24 and AS1/pRS-*lysC80*, respectively. Each strain was inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L of streptomycin, and cultured at 37°C for 48 hours with shaking. As a control strain, AS1 strain harboring pRS was also cultured in a similar manner. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-lysine concentration in the

culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results are shown in Table 3.

5

Table 3

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (g/L)
AS1/pRS	<0.01
AS1/pRS-lysC80	0.06
AS1/pRS-dapA24	0.13

### Example 3

#### Creation of L-lysine-producing bacterium (3)

10       The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 121M1 medium and cultured at 37°C for 15 hours. The obtained bacterial cells were treated with NTG in a conventional manner (NTG concentration: 100 mg/L, 37°C, 5 minutes), and spread  
15       onto 121M1 agar medium containing 7 g/L of S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine (AEC) and 3 g/L of L-threonine. The cells were cultured at 37°C for 2 to 8 days, and the formed colonies were picked up to obtain AEC-resistant strains.

20       The aforementioned AEC-resistant strains were inoculated to 121 production medium, and cultured at 37°C for 38 hours under an aerobic condition. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium carbonate were removed from the medium by centrifugation, and L-  
25       lysine concentration in the culture supernatant was measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation

[Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography).

A strain showing improved L-lysine-producing ability compared with the parent strain was selected, and designated as *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AR-166 strain.

- 5 The L-lysine production amounts of the parent strain (AS1 strain) and the AR-166 strain are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

Strain	Production amount of L-lysine hydrochloride (mg/L)
AS1	5.8
AR-166	80

- 10 The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AR-166 strain was given a private number of AJ13608, and was deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 15 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on June 10, 1999 and received an accession number of FERM P-17416, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on March 31, 2000, and received an accession number of 20 FERM BP-7112.

#### Example 4

##### Creation of L-threonine-producing bacterium

- (1) Introduction of threonine operon plasmid into  
25 *Methylophilus* bacterium

A plasmid pVIC40 (International Publication



WO90/04636, Japanese Patent Application Laid-open  
(Kohyo) No. 3-501682/1991) containing a threonine operon  
derived from *E. coli* was introduced into the  
*Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) by  
5 electroporation (Canadian Journal of Microbiology, 43,  
197 (1997)) to obtain AS1/pVIC40 strain. As a control,  
pRS (Japanese Patent Application Laid-open (Kohyo) No.  
3-501682/1991) having only the vector region was  
obtained by deleting the DNA region coding for the  
10 threonine operon from the pVIC40 plasmid, and it was  
introduced into the AS1 strain in the same manner as  
used for pVIC40 to obtain AS1/pRS strain.

(2) Production of L-threonine by *Methylophilus* bacterium  
15 containing threonine operon derived from *E. coli*

Each of the AS1/pVIC40 and AS1/pRS strains was  
inoculated to 121 production medium containing 20 mg/L  
of streptomycin, 1 g/l of L-valine and 1 g/l of L-  
leucine, and cultured at 37°C for 50 hours with shaking.  
20 After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium  
carbonate were removed by centrifugation, and L-  
threonine concentration in the culture supernatant was  
measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation  
[Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography).  
25 The results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

Strain	Production amount of L-threonine (mg/L)
AS1/pRS	15
AS1/pVIC40	30

## Example 5

Creation of branched chain amino acid-producing

## 5 bacterium

The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 121M1 medium and cultured at 37°C for 15 hours. The obtained bacterial cells were treated with NTG in a conventional manner (NTG concentration: 100 mg/L, 37°C, 5 minutes), and spread onto 121M1 agar medium containing 0.5% of casamino acid (DIFCO). The cells were cultured at 37°C for 2 to 8 days, and allowed to form colonies. The formed colonies were picked up, and inoculated to 121M1 agar medium and 121M1 agar medium containing 0.5% of casamino acid. Strains exhibiting better growth on the latter medium compared with on the former medium were selected as casamino acid auxotrophic strains. In this way, 9 leaky casamino acid auxotrophic strains were obtained from NTG-treated 500 strains. From these casamino acid auxotrophic strains, one strain that accumulated more L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine in the medium compared with its parent strain was obtained. This strain was designated as *Methylophilus methylotrophus* C138 strain.

The *Methylophilus methylotrophus* C138 strain was

given a private number of AJ13609, and was deposited at National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology, Agency of Industrial Science and Technology, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (postal code 305-8566, 1-3 Higashi 1-chome, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki-ken, Japan) on June 10, 1999 and received an accession number of FERM P-17417, and it was transferred to an international deposition under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on March 31, 2000, and received an accession number of FERM BP-7113.

The parent strain (AS1 strain) and the C138 strain were inoculated to 121 production medium, and cultured at 37°C for 34 hours under an aerobic condition. After the culture was completed, the cells and calcium carbonate were removed from the medium by centrifugation, and concentrations of L-valine, L-leucine and L-isoleucine in the culture supernatant were measured by an amino acid analyzer (JASCO Corporation [Nihon Bunko], high performance liquid chromatography). The results are shown in Table 6.

Table 6

Strain	L-valine (mg/L)	L-leucine (mg/L)	L-isoleucine (mg/L)
AS1	7.5	5.0	2.7
C138	330	166	249

## Example 6

Preparation of chromosome DNA library of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

(1) Preparation of chromosome DNA of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

One platinum loop of the *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain (NCIMB10515) was inoculated to 5 ml of 121M1 medium in a test tube, and cultured at 37°C overnight with shaking. The obtained culture broth was inoculated to 50 ml of 121M1 medium in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask in an amount of 1%, and cultured at 37°C overnight with shaking. Then, the cells were harvested by centrifugation, and suspended in 50 ml of TEN solution (solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 10 mM EDTA and 20 mM NaCl (pH 8.0)). The cells were collected by centrifugation, and suspended again in 5 ml of the TEN solution containing 5 mg/ml of lysozyme and 10 µg/ml of RNase A. The suspension was maintained at 37°C for 30 minutes, and then proteinase K and sodium laurylsulfate were added thereto to final concentrations of 10 µg/ml and 0.5% (wt/vol), respectively.

The suspension was maintained at 70°C for 2 hours, and then an equal amount of a saturated solution of phenol (phenol solution saturated with 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0)) was added and mixed. The suspension was centrifuged, and the supernatant was collected. An equal amount of phenol/chloroform solution (phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol = 25:24:1) was added and mixed, and the mixture was centrifuged. The supernatant was collected, and an equal amount of chloroform solution (chloroform:isoamyl alcohol = 24:1) was added thereto to repeat the same extraction

procedure. To the supernatant, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to precipitate chromosome DNA. The precipitates were collected by centrifugation, washed  
5 with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in a suitable amount of TE solution (10 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM EDTA (pH 8.0)).

## (2) Preparation of gene library

10 A 50  $\mu$ l portion of the chromosome DNA (1  $\mu$ g/ $\mu$ l) obtained in the above (1), 20  $\mu$ l of H buffer (500 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM dithiothreitol, 1000 mM NaCl (pH 7.5)) and 8 units of a restriction enzyme  
15 Sau3AI (Takara Shuzo) were allowed to react at 37°C for 10 minutes in a total volume of 200  $\mu$ l, and then 200  $\mu$ l of the phenol/chloroform solution was added and mixed to stop the reaction. The reaction mixture was centrifuged, and the upper layer was collected and separated on a  
20 0.8% agarose gel. DNA corresponding to 2 to 5 kilobase pair (henceforth abbreviated as "kbp") was collected by using Concert™ Rapid Gel Extraction System (DNA  
collecting kit, GIBCO BRL Co.). In this way, 50  $\mu$ l of a solution of DNA with fractionated size was obtained.

On the other hand, 2.5  $\mu$ g of plasmid pUC118  
25 (Takara Shuzo), 2  $\mu$ l of K buffer (200 mM Tris-HCl, 100 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM dithiothreitol, 1000 mM KCl (pH 8.5)) and 10 units of restriction enzyme BamHI (Takara Shuzo) were allowed to react at 37°C for 2 hours in a total volume of 20  $\mu$ l, then 20 units of calf small intestine

alkaline phosphatase (Takara Shuzo) was added and mixed, and the mixture was allowed to react for further 30 minutes. The reaction mixture was mixed with an equal amount of the phenol/chloroform solution, and the  
5 mixture was centrifuged. The supernatant was collected, and an equal amount of the chloroform solution was added thereto to repeat a similar extraction procedure. To the supernatant, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to  
10 precipitate DNA. The DNA was collected by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in a suitable amount of TE solution.

A *Sau3AI* digestion product of the chromosome DNA  
15 prepared as described above and a *BamHI* digestion product of pUC118 were ligated by using a Ligation Kit ver. 2 (Takara Shuzo). To the reaction mixture, a 1/10 volume of 3 M sodium acetate (pH 4.8) and 2.5-fold volume of ethanol were added to precipitate DNA. The  
20 DNA was collected by centrifugation, washed with 70% ethanol, dried under reduced pressure, and dissolved in TE solution (Ligase solution A).

In the same manner as in the above procedure, fragments obtained by partial digestion of the  
25 chromosome DNA with a restriction enzyme *AluI* (Takara Shuzo) and a *SmaI* digestion product of plasmid pSTV29 (Takara Shuzo) were ligated (Ligase solution B).

One platinum loop of *E. coli* JM109 was inoculated to 5 ml of L medium in a test tube, and cultured at 37°C

overnight with shaking. The obtained culture broth was inoculated to 50 ml of L medium in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask in an amount of 1%, cultured at 37°C until OD<sub>660</sub> of the culture became 0.5 to 0.6, and cooled on ice for 15 minutes. Then, the cells were harvested by centrifugation at 4°C. The cells were suspended in 50 ml of ice-cooled water and centrifuged to wash the cells. This operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in 50 ml of ice-cooled 10% glycerol solution, and centrifuged to wash the cells. The cells were suspended in 10% glycerol solution of the same volume as the cells, and divided into 50  $\mu$ l aliquots. To the cells in the 50  $\mu$ l volume, 1  $\mu$ l of Ligase solution A or Ligase solution B prepared above was added. Then, the mixture was put into a special cuvette (0.1 cm width, preliminarily ice-cooled) for an electroporation apparatus of BioRad.

The setting of the apparatus was 1.8 kV and 25  $\mu$ F, and the setting of pulse controller was 200 ohms. The cuvette was mounted on the apparatus and pulses were applied thereto. Immediately after the application of pulse, 1 ml of ice-cooled SOC medium was added thereto, and the mixture was transferred into a sterilized test tube, and cultured at 37°C for 1 hour with shaking. Each cell culture broth was spread onto L agar medium containing an antibiotic (100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin when Ligase solution A was used, or 20  $\mu$ g/ml of chloramphenicol when Ligase solution B was used), and incubated at 37°C overnight. The colonies emerged on

each agar medium were scraped, inoculated to 50 ml of L medium containing respective antibiotic in a 500 ml-volume Sakaguchi flask, and cultured at 37°C for 2 hours with shaking. Plasmid DNA was extracted from each culture broth by the alkali SDS method to form Gene library solution A and Gene library solution B, respectively.

#### Example 7

10 Cloning of lysine biosynthesis gene of *Methylophilus methylotrophus* AS1 strain

(1) Cloning of gene coding for aspartokinase (AK)

*E. coli* GT3 deficient in the three genes coding for AK (*thrA*, *metLM* and *lysC*) was transformed with Gene library solution B by the same electroporation procedure as mentioned above. SOC medium containing 20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid was added to the transformation solution, and cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then, the culture broth was spread onto L medium containing 20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol to obtain emerged colonies. This was replicated as a master plate to M9 agar medium containing 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol, and the replicate was incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The host could not grow in M9 minimal medium that did not contain diaminopimelic acid since it did not have AK activity. In contrast, it was expected that the transformant strain that contained the gene coding for AK derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* could grow



in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

Two transformants out of about 3000 transformants formed colonies on M9 medium. Plasmids were extracted from the colonies emerged on M9 medium and analyzed. As  
5 a result, the presence of an inserted fragment on the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMASK-1 and pMMASK-2, respectively. By using these plasmids, *E. coli* GT3 was transformed again. The obtained transformants could grow on M9 minimal medium.  
10 Further, the transformant which contained each of these plasmids was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of chloramphenicol, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. Cell-free extracts were prepared by sonicating the cells, and  
15 AK activity was measured according to the method of Miyajima et al. (Journal of Biochemistry (Tokyo), vol. 63, 139-148 (1968)) (Fig. 3: pMMASK-1, pMMASK-2). In addition, a GT3 strain harboring the vector pSTV29 was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of  
20 diaminopimelic acid and 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of chloramphenicol, and AK activity was measured (Fig. 3: Vector). As a result, increase in AK activity was observed in two of the clones containing the inserted fragments compared with the transformant harboring only the vector. Therefore,  
25 it was confirmed that the gene that could be cloned on pSTV29 was a gene coding for AK derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*. This gene was designated as *ask*.

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *ask* gene was

determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that pMMASK-1 and pMMASK-2 contained a common fragment. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the ask gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 5. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6.

## (2) Cloning of gene coding for aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase (ASD)

*E. coli* Hfr3000 U482 (CGSC 5081 strain) deficient in the *asd* gene was transformed by electroporation using Gene library solution B in the same manner as described above. To the transformation solution, SOC medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of diaminopimelic acid was added and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. The cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells were washed by suspending them in L medium and centrifuging the suspension. The same washing operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in L medium. Then, the suspension was spread onto L agar medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of chloramphenicol, and incubated overnight at 37°C. The host showed extremely slow growth in L medium not containing diaminopimelic acid since it was deficient in the *asd* gene. In contrast, it was expected that normal growth would be observed for a transformant strain which contained the gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* even in L medium because of the function of the gene. Further,

the host *E. coli* could not grow in M9 minimal medium, but a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* was expected to be able to grow in M9 minimal medium because  
5 of the function of the gene. Therefore, colonies of transformants that normally grew on L medium were picked up, streaked and cultured on M9 agar medium. As a result, growth was observed. Thus, it was confirmed that the gene coding for ASD functioned in these  
10 transformant strains as expected.

Plasmids were extracted from the three transformant strains emerged on M9 medium, and the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMASD-1,  
15 pMMASD-2 and pMMASD-3, respectively. When the *E. coli* Hfr3000 U482 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20  $\mu$ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and the  
20 cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a crude enzyme solution, and ASD activity was measured according to the method of Boy et al. (Journal of Bacteriology, vol. 112 (1), 84-92 (1972)) (Fig. 4: pMMASD-1, pMMASD-2,  
25 pMMASD-3). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu$ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 20  $\mu$ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and ASD activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 4: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity

could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the ASD activity could be detected in three of the clones having an insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that the obtained  
5 gene was a gene coding for ASD derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *asd*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *asd* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that all of the three obtained clones contained a common fragment.  
10 The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *asd* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 7. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 7 and 8.

15 (3) Cloning of gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase (DDPS)

*E. coli* AT997 (CGSC 4547 strain) deficient in the *dapA* gene was transformed by the same electroporation  
20 procedure using Gene library solution A. To the transformation solution, SOC medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of diaminopimelic acid was added, and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then, the culture broth was spread onto L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of  
25 diaminopimelic acid and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin to obtain emerged colonies. This was replicated as a master plate to M9 minimal agar medium containing 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and the replicate was incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The host could not grow in M9

minimal medium that did not contain diaminopimelic acid since it was deficient in *dapA* gene. In contrast, it was expected that a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus*  
5 *methylophilus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of that gene.

Plasmids were extracted from the colonies of two strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmids was  
10 confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMDAPA-1 and pMMDAP-2, respectively. When *E. coli* AT997 was transformed again by using these plasmids, each transformant was grown in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each plasmid was cultured  
15 overnight in L medium containing 100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPS activity was measured according to the method of Yugari et al. (Journal of Biological  
20 Chemistry, vol.240, and p.4710 (1965)) (Fig. 5: pMMDAPA-1, pMMDAPA-2). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu$ g/ml of diaminopimelic acid and 100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin, and DDPS activity was measured as a control experiment  
25 (Fig. 5: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPS activity could be detected in each of the transformants harboring the plasmids having the insert fragment. Therefore, it was

confirmed that the obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPS derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapA*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *dapA* gene was  
 5 determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that two  
 of the inserted fragments contained a common fragment.  
 The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing  
 the *dapA* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus*  
 is shown in SEQ ID NO: 9. An amino acid sequence that  
 10 can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in  
 SEQ ID NOS: 9 and 10.

#### (4) Cloning of gene coding for dihydrodipicolinate reductase (DDPR)

15 *E. coli* AT999 (CGSC 4549 strain) deficient in the  
*dapB* gene was transformed by the same electroporation  
 procedure as described above using Gene library solution  
 A. To the transformation solution, SOC medium  
 containing 20 µg/ml of diaminopimelic acid was added,  
 20 and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. Then,  
 the cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells  
 were washed by suspending them in L medium and  
 centrifuging the suspension. The same washing operation  
 was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in  
 25 L medium. Then, the suspension was spread onto L agar  
 medium containing 100 µg/ml of ampicillin, and incubated  
 overnight at 37°C. The host showed extremely slow  
 growth in L medium not containing diaminopimelic acid  
 since it was deficient in the *dapB* gene. In contrast,

it was expected that normal growth could be observed for a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* even in L medium because of the function of the gene. Further, 5 the host *E. coli* could not grow in M9 minimal medium, but it was expected that a transformant strain which contained the gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

10 Therefore, a colony of transformant that normally grew on L medium was streaked and cultured on M9 agar medium. Then, growth was also observed on M9 medium. Thus, it was confirmed that the gene coding for DDPR functioned in the transformant strain. A plasmid was 15 extracted from the colony emerged on M9 medium, and the presence of an inserted fragment in the plasmid was confirmed. When *E. coli* AT999 was transformed again by using the plasmid (pMMDAPB), the transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, the transformant containing 20 the plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DDPR activity was measured according to the method of Tamir et al. (Journal of Biological Chemistry, 25 vol. 249, p.3034 (1974)) (Fig. 6: pMMDAPB). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  diaminopimelic acid and 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ampicillin, and DDPR activity was measured as a control experiment (Fig. 6: Vector). As a result, the

enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DDPR activity could be detected for the transformant harboring pMMDAPB. Therefore, it was confirmed that the  
 5 obtained gene was a gene coding for DDPR derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *dapB*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *dapB* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *dapB* gene  
 10 derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 11. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 11 and 12.

15 (5) Cloning of gene coding for diaminopimelate decarboxylase (DPDC)

*E. coli* AT2453 (CGSC 4505 strain) deficient in the *lysA* gene was transformed by the same electroporation procedure as described above using Gene library solution  
 20 A. The transformation solution, SOC medium was added, and the mixture was cultured at 37°C with shaking. The cells were harvested by centrifugation. The cells were washed by suspending them in 5 ml of sterilized water and centrifuging the suspension. The same washing  
 25 operation was repeated once again, and the cells were suspended in 500 µl of sterilized water. Then, the suspension was spread onto M9 minimal agar medium containing 20 µg/ml of chloramphenicol, and incubated at 37°C for 2 to 3 days. The host could not grow in M9



minimal medium not containing lysine since it was deficient in the *lysA* gene. In contrast, it was expected that a transformant strain that contained the gene coding for DPDC derived from *Methylophilus*  
5 *methylophilus* could grow in M9 minimal medium because of the function of the gene.

Therefore, plasmids were extracted from the three transformant strains emerged on M9 medium, and analyzed. As a result, the presence of an inserted fragment in the  
10 plasmids was confirmed. The plasmids were designated as pMMLYSA-1, pMMLYSA-2 and pMMLYSA-3, respectively. When *E. coli* AT2453 was transformed again by using each of these plasmids, each transformant grew in M9 minimal medium. Further, each transformant containing each  
15 plasmid was cultured overnight in L medium containing 20  $\mu$ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and the cells were collected by centrifugation of the culture broth. The cells were sonicated to prepare a cell extract, and DPDC activity was measured according to the method of Cremer et al.  
20 (Journal of General Microbiology, vol. 134, 3221-3229 (1988)) (Fig. 7: pMMLYSA-1, pMMLYSA-2, pMMLYSA-3). In addition, the host harboring the vector was similarly cultured in L medium containing 20  $\mu$ g/ml of chloramphenicol, and DPDC activity was measured as a  
25 control experiment (Fig. 7: Vector). As a result, the enzymatic activity could not be detected for the transformant harboring only the vector, whereas the DPDC activity could be detected in three of the clones having an insert fragment. Therefore, it was confirmed that

the obtained gene was a gene coding for DPDC derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* (designated as *lysA*).

The DNA nucleotide sequence of the *lysA* gene was determined by the dideoxy method. It was found that all  
5 of the three inserted fragments contained a common DNA fragment. The nucleotide sequence of the DNA fragment containing the *lysA* gene derived from *Methylophilus methylotrophus* is shown in SEQ ID NO: 13. An amino acid sequence that can be encoded by the nucleotide sequence  
10 is shown in SEQ ID NOS: 13 and 14.

#### Industrial Applicability

According to the present invention, there are provided a *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-  
15 producing ability, a method for producing an L-amino acid using the *Methylophilus* bacterium, and *Methylophilus* bacterial cells with increased content of an L-amino acid. By the method of the present invention, it is enabled to produce an L-amino acid using methanol  
20 as a raw material. Moreover, novel L-lysine biosynthesis enzyme genes derived from *Methylophilus* bacteria are provided by the present invention.

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A *Methylophilus* bacterium having L-amino acid-producing ability.
- 5 2. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.
3. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,  
10 which shows resistance to an L-amino acid analogue or L-amino acid auxotrophy.
4. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,  
15 wherein L-amino acid biosynthetic enzyme activity is enhanced.
5. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,  
wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and aspartokinase activity are enhanced, and the bacterium  
20 has L-lysine-producing ability.
6. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,  
wherein dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing  
25 ability.
7. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1,  
wherein aspartokinase activity is enhanced, and the bacterium has L-lysine-producing ability.

8. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein an activity or activities of one, two or three of enzymes selected from aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase, dihydrodipicolinate reductase and diaminopimelate decarboxylase is/are enhanced.
9. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 5, wherein the dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity and the aspartokinase activity are enhanced by transformation through introduction into cells, of a DNA coding for dihydrodipicolinate synthase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine and a DNA coding for aspartokinase that does not suffer feedback inhibition by L-lysine.
10. The *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 1, wherein activities of aspartokinase, homoserine dehydrogenase, homoserine kinase and threonine synthase are enhanced, and the bacterium has L-threonine-producing ability.
11. The bacterium according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the *Methylophilus* bacterium is *Methylophilus methylotrophus*.
12. A method for producing an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined

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in any one of claim 1 to 11 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in culture and collecting the L-amino acid from the culture.

- 5 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the medium contains methanol as a main carbon source.

- 10 14. A method for producing bacterial cells of a *Methylophilus* bacterium with an increased content of an L-amino acid, which comprises culturing a *Methylophilus* bacterium as defined in any one of claim 1 to 11 in a medium to produce and accumulate an L-amino acid in bacterial cells of the bacterium.

- 15 15. The method for producing bacterial cells of the *Methylophilus* bacterium according to claim 14, wherein the L-amino acid is L-lysine, L-valine, L-leucine, L-isoleucine or L-threonine.

- 20 16. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (A) or (B):

(A) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or

- 25 (B) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 6 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartokinase activity.

17. The DNA according to claim 16, which is a DNA

defined in the following (a) or (b):

(a) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5; or

- 5 (b) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 510 to 1736 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartokinase activity.

10

18. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (C) or (D):

(C) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or

- 15 (D) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 8 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and has aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

- 20 19. The DNA according to claim 18, which is a DNA defined in the following (c) or (d):

(c) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7; or

- 25 (d) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 98 to 1207 of SEQ ID NO: 7 or a part thereof under a stringent condition, and codes for a protein having aspartic acid semialdehyde dehydrogenase activity.

20. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (E) or (F):

(E) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ  
5 ID NO: 10, or

(F) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ  
ID NO: 10 including substitution, deletion, insertion,  
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and  
has dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

10

21. The DNA according to claim 20, which is a DNA defined in the following (e) or (f):

(e) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the  
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to  
15 2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9; or

(f) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the  
nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 1268 to  
2155 of SEQ ID NO: 9 or a part thereof under a stringent  
condition, and codes for a protein having  
20 dihydrodipicolinate synthase activity.

22. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (G) or (H):

(G) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ  
25 ID NO: 12, or

(H) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ  
ID NO: 12 including substitution, deletion, insertion,  
addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and  
has dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

23. The DNA according to claim 22, which is a DNA defined in the following (g) or (h):

(g) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the  
5 nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11; or

(h) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 2080 to 2883 of SEQ ID NO: 11 or a part thereof under a  
10 stringent condition, and codes for a protein having dihydrodipicolinate reductase activity.

24. A DNA which codes for a protein defined in the following (I) or (J):

15 (I) a protein which has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14, or

(J) a protein which has an amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 14 including substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or several amino acids, and  
20 has diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

25. The DNA according to claim 24, which is a DNA defined in the following (i) or (j):

(i) a DNA which has a nucleotide sequence comprising the  
25 nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to 1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13; or

(j) a DNA which is hybridizable with a probe having the nucleotide sequence of the nucleotide numbers 751 to 1995 of SEQ ID NO: 13 or a part thereof under a



stringent condition, and codes for a protein having diaminopimelate decarboxylase activity.

09925299-100901



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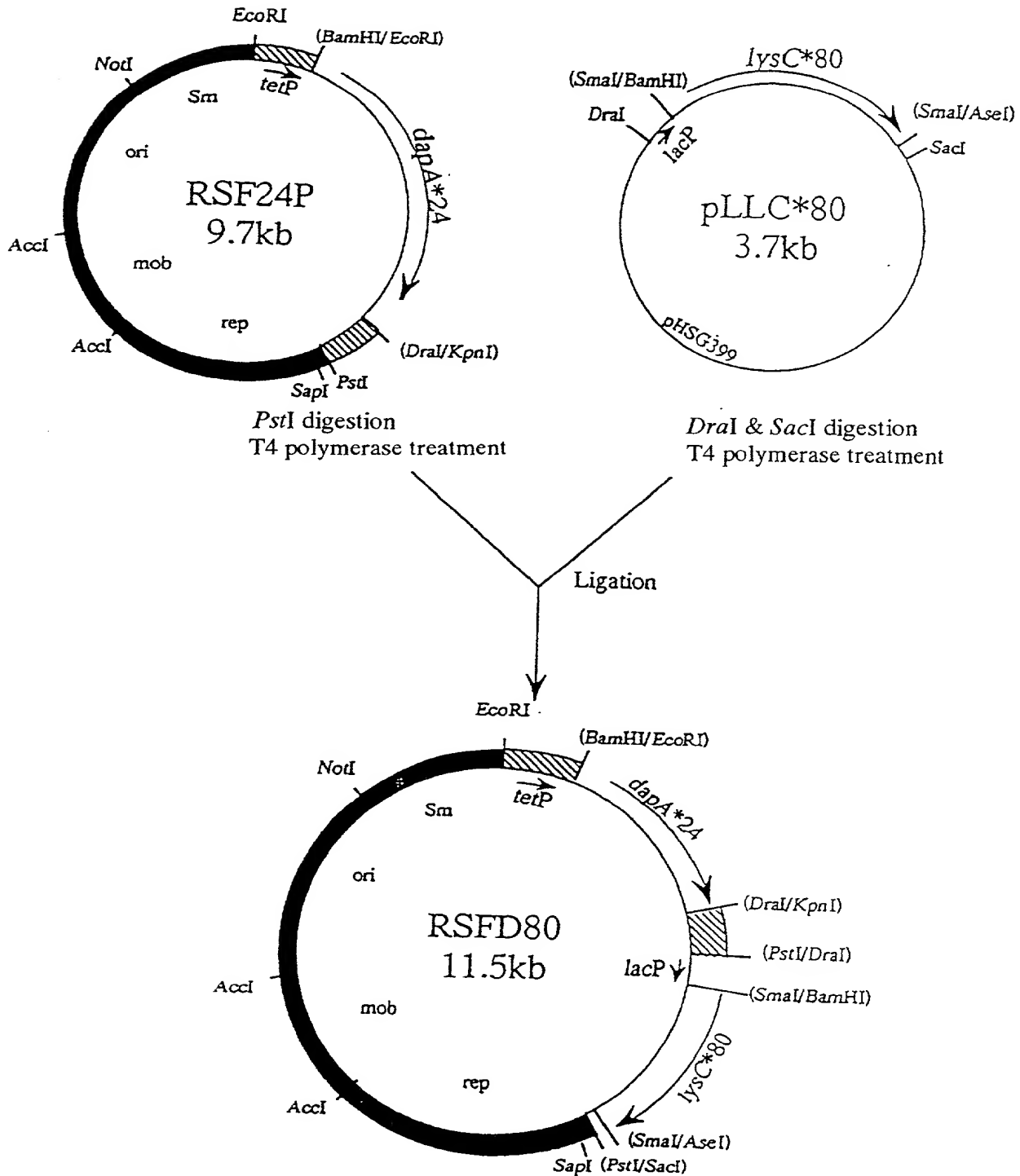


FIG. 2

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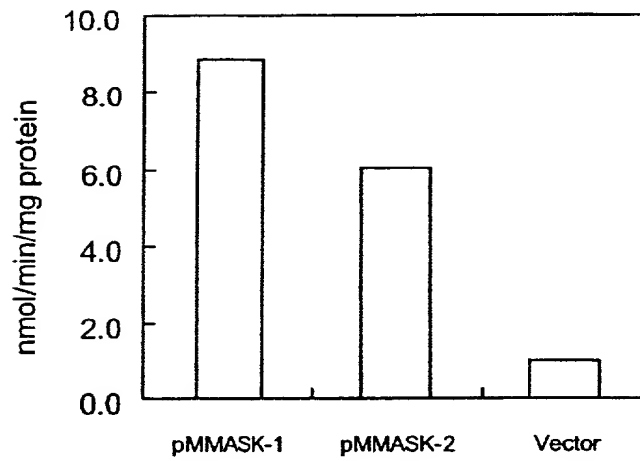


FIG. 3

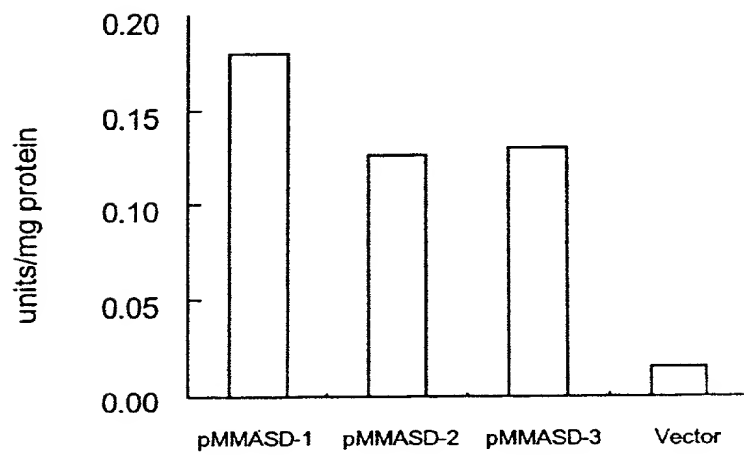


FIG. 4

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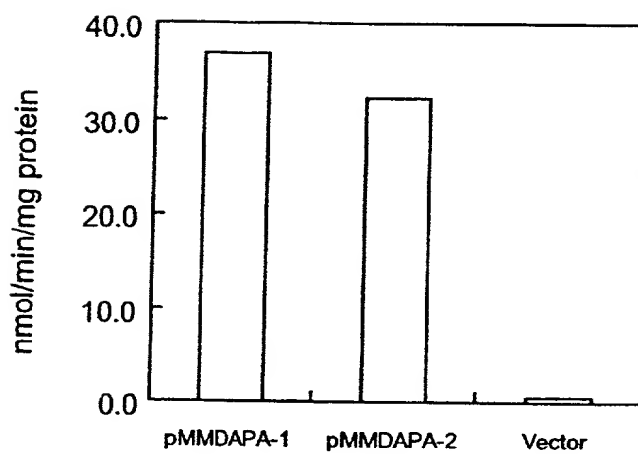


FIG. 5

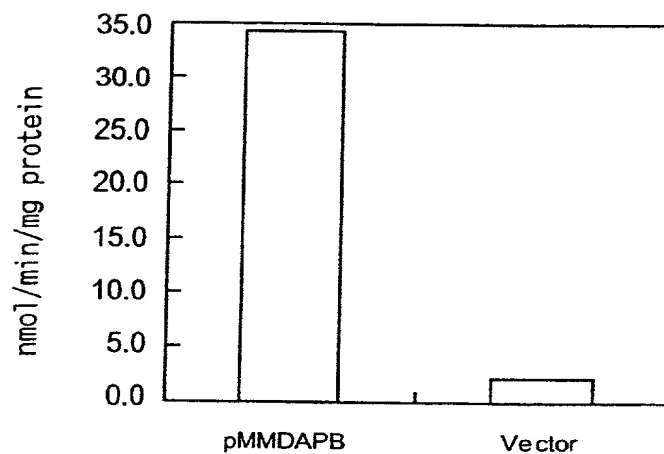


FIG. 6

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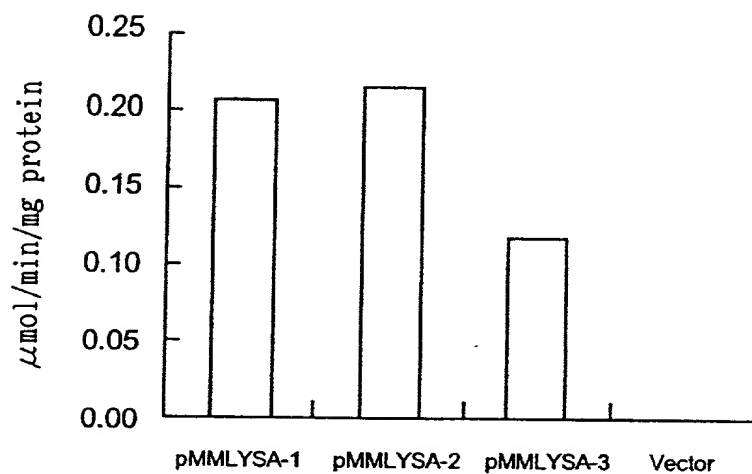


FIG. 7

# Declaration, Power Of Attorney and Petition

Page 1 of 3

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

L-AMINO ACID-PRODUCING BACTERIUM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-AMINO ACID

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and amended on \_\_\_\_\_.

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/JP 00/02295  
on April 7, 2000,

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s)

Application No.	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed	
<u>11-103143</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>09/04/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>11-169447</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>16/06/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<u>11-368097</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>24/12/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

And we (I) hereby appoint: Norman F. Oblon, Registration Number 24,618; Marvin J. Spivak, Registration Number 24,913; C. Irvin McClelland, Registration Number 21,124; Gregory J. Maier, Registration Number 25,599; Arthur L. Neustadt, Registration Number 24,854; Richard D. Kelly, Registration Number 27,757; James D. Hamilton, Registration Number 28,421; Eckhard H. Kuesters, Registration Number 28,870; Robert T. Pous, Registration Number 29,099; Charles L. Gholz, Registration Number 26,395; Vincent J. Sunderdick, Registration Number 29,004; William E. Beaumont, Registration Number 30,996; Steven B. Kelber, Registration Number 30,073; Robert F. Gnuse, Registration Number 27,295; Jean-Paul Lavalleye, Registration Number 31,451; Timothy R. Schwartz, Registration Number 32,171; Stephen G. Baxter, Registration Number 32,884; Martin M. Zoltick, Registration Number 35,745; Robert W. Hahl, Registration Number 33,893; Richard L. Treanor, Registration Number 36,379; Steven P. Weihrouch, Registration Number 32,829; John T. Goolkasian, Registration Number 26,142; Marc R. Labgold, Registration Number 34,651; William J. Healey, Registration Number 36,160; and Richard L. Chinn, Registration Number 34,305; our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to the firm of OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C., whose Post Office Address is: Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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July 23, 2001  
Date



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July 23, 2001

Date

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Date

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Date

7-10

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July 23, 2001

Date

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Signature of Inventor

Date

NAME OF NINTH JOINT INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Date

1/31

SEQUENCE LISTING

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<151> 1999-04-09

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69926299 "100901"



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 35 40 45  
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 50 55 60  
 Asp Leu Ala Asp Gly Arg Ile Pro Val Ile Ala Gly Thr Gly Ala Asn  
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 Ala Thr Ala Glu Ala Ile Ser Leu Thr Gln Arg Phe Asn Asp Ser Gly  
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 Ile Val Gly Cys Leu Thr Val Thr Pro Tyr Tyr Asn Arg Pro Ser Gln

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Met Ser Glu Ile

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 Asn Arg Ser Ala Asp Ile Val Leu Ser Asp Ala Asn Val Arg Leu Val  
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 Val Leu Ser Ala Ser Ala Gly Ile Thr Asn Leu Leu Val Ala Leu Ala  
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 Glu Gly Leu Glu Pro Gly Glu Arg Phe Glu Lys Leu Asp Ala Ile Arg  
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 Asn Ile Gln Phe Ala Ile Leu Glu Arg Leu Arg Tyr Pro Asn Val Ile  
 70 75 80  
 cgt gaa gag att gaa cgt ctg ctg gag aac att act gtt ctg gca gaa 883  
 Arg Glu Glu Ile Glu Arg Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Thr Val Leu Ala Glu  
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 Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Thr Ser Pro Ala Leu Thr Asp Glu Leu Val Ser  
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Leu Ala Ala Leu Gln Leu Leu Pro Arg Leu Asn Glu Gly Leu Val Ile	
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acc cag gga ttt atc ggt agc gaa aat aaa ggt cgt aca acg acg ctt	1171
Thr Gln Gly Phe Ile Gly Ser Glu Asn Lys Gly Arg Thr Thr Thr Leu	
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ggc cgt gga ggc agc gat tat acg gca gcc ttg ctg gcg gag gct tta	1219
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 Asp Ala Ile Arg Asn Ile Gln Phe Ala Ile Leu Glu Arg Leu Arg Tyr

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	100			105		110
Glu Leu Val Ser His Gly Glu Leu Met Ser Thr Leu Leu Phe Val Glu						
	115			120		125
Ile Leu Arg Glu Arg Asp Val Gln Ala Gln Trp Phe Asp Val Arg Lys						
	130			135		140
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Lys Val Leu His Pro Ala Thr Leu Leu Pro Ala Val Arg Ser Asp Ile						
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Arg Val Ala Arg Tyr Lys Ala Leu Gly His Gln Val Val Val Val Val	

*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]*

*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]*

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250				255				260									
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Ala	Lys	Ile	Thr	Val	Thr	Gly	Val	Pro	Asp	Lys	Pro	Gly	Ile	Ala	Tyr		
265				270				275				280					
cag	att	ttg	ggc	cgc	gtg	gca	gac	gcc	aat	att	gat	gtg	gat	atg	att	1397	
Gln	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	Ala	Asn	Ile	Asp	Val	Asp	Met	Ile		
285				290				295									
atc	cag	aac	gtc	ggt	gcg	gat	ggt	acg	act	gac	ttc	acc	ttt	acc	gta	1445	
Ile	Gln	Asn	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	Gly	Thr	Thr	Asp	Phe	Thr	Phe	Thr	Val		
300				305				310									
cat	aaa	aat	gag	atg	aac	aaa	gcc	ctg	agc	att	ctt	aga	gat	aaa	gtg	1493	
His	Lys	Asn	Glu	Met	Asn	Lys	Ala	Leu	Ser	Ile	Leu	Arg	Asp	Lys	Val		
315				320				325									
cag	ggc	cat	atc	cag	gca	cgt	gaa	atc	agc	ggc	gac	gac	aag	att	gcc	1541	
Gln	Gly	His	Ile	Gln	Ala	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ser	Gly	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ile	Ala		
330				335				340									
aaa	gtc	tct	gtg	gtt	ggg	gtg	ggt	atg	cgc	tca	cat	gta	ggg	atc	gcc	1589	
Lys	Val	Ser	Val	Val	Gly	Val	Gly	Met	Arg	Ser	His	Val	Gly	Ile	Ala		
345				350				355				360					
agc	cag	atg	ttc	cgt	acg	ctg	gcc	gaa	gaa	ggg	atc	aat	att	caa	atg	1637	
Ser	Gln	Met	Phe	Arg	Thr	Leu	Ala	Glu	Glu	Gly	Ile	Asn	Ile	Gln	Met		
365				370				375									
atc	tca	acc	agc	gaa	att	aaa	att	gca	gtc	gtg	atc	gaa	gag	aag	tac	1685	
Ile	Ser	Thr	Ser	Glu	Ile	Lys	Ile	Ala	Val	Val	Ile	Glu	Glu	Lys	Tyr		
380				385				390									
atg	gaa	ctg	gct	gta	cgc	gtg	ttg	cat	aaa	gca	ttc	ggc	ctc	gaa	aac	1733	
Met	Glu	Leu	Ala	Val	Arg	Val	Leu	His	Lys	Ala	Phe	Gly	Leu	Glu	Asn		
395				400				405									
gca taatcgccaa cggacgaata aagaaataaa acattcttct tttttgcgtt																1786	
Ala																	
gatttttgaa gggttttcac gtagtatggc agcccttcga tgcagtagca atgctgcaaa																1846	
gagaacagca tgccgctgtg ttggtactat taaaacttca ttgttttaaat aaggtgaggg																1906	
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tttctggtg tgaaa																1981	

&lt;210&gt; 6

&lt;211&gt; 409

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Methylophilus methylotrophus

&lt;400&gt; 6

Met	Ala	Leu	Ile	Val	Gln	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Gly	Thr	Ser	Val	Ala	Asn	Pro
1				5					10					15	
Glu	Arg	Ile	Arg	Asn	Val	Ala	Arg	Arg	Val	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Lys	Ala	Leu
				20				25					30		
Gly	His	Gln	Val	Val	Val	Val	Val	Ser	Ala	Met	Ser	Gly	Glu	Thr	Asn
		35					40					45			
Arg	Leu	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Lys	Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Asp	Pro	Asp	Pro	Arg
	50					55				60					
Glu	Leu	Asp	Val	Met	Val	Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Gln	Val	Thr	Ile	Gly	Met
65				70				75						80	
Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	Met	Glu	Leu	Gly	Ile	Lys	Ala	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Thr
				85				90						95	
Gly	Thr	Gln	Val	Lys	Ile	Leu	Thr	Asp	Asp	Ala	Phe	Thr	Lys	Ala	Arg
			100					105					110		
Ile	Leu	Asp	Ile	Asp	Glu	His	Asn	Leu	Lys	Lys	Asp	Leu	Asp	Asp	Gly
	115						120					125			
Tyr	Val	Cys	Val	Val	Ala	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly	Val	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Asn
	130					135					140				
Ile	Thr	Thr	Leu	Gly	Arg	Gly	Gly	Ser	Asp	Thr	Thr	Gly	Val	Ala	Leu
145				150				155						160	
Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Lys	Ala	Asp	Glu	Cys	Gln	Ile	Tyr	Thr	Asp	Val	Asp
			165					170					175		
Gly	Val	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Asp	Pro	Arg	Val	Val	Pro	Glu	Ala	Arg	Arg	Leu
		180					185					190			
Asp	Lys	Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ser
	195						200				205				
Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ser	Val	Glu	Phe	Ala	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Val
	210					215					220				
Lys	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Glu	Gly	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu
225				230				235						240	
Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Asn	Glu	Glu	Asn	Met	Glu	Glu	Pro	Ile	Ile	Ser

	245		250		255
Gly Ile Ala Phe Asn Arg Asp Glu Ala Lys Ile Thr Val Thr Gly Val					
	260		265		270
Pro Asp Lys Pro Gly Ile Ala Tyr Gln Ile Leu Gly Pro Val Ala Asp					
	275		280		285
Ala Asn Ile Asp Val Asp Met Ile Ile Gln Asn Val Gly Ala Asp Gly					
	290		295		300
Thr Thr Asp Phe Thr Phe Thr Val His Lys Asn Glu Met Asn Lys Ala					
305		310		315	320
Leu Ser Ile Leu Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Gly His Ile Gln Ala Arg Glu					
	325		330		335
Ile Ser Gly Asp Asp Lys Ile Ala Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Val Gly					
	340		345		350
Met Arg Ser His Val Gly Ile Ala Ser Gln Met Phe Arg Thr Leu Ala					
	355		360		365
Glu Glu Gly Ile Asn Ile Gln Met Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu Ile Lys Ile					
	370		375		380
Ala Val Val Ile Glu Glu Lys Tyr Met Glu Leu Ala Val Arg Val Leu					
385		390		395	400
His Lys Ala Phe Gly Leu Glu Asn Ala					
	405				

&lt;210&gt; 7

&lt;211&gt; 1452

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Methylophilus methylotrophus

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; CDS

&lt;222&gt; (98)..(1207)

&lt;400&gt; 7

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                                Met Leu Lys Val Gly Phe
                                1                      5
gta ggc tgg cgt ggc atg gtt gga tcc gtg cta atg cag cgc atg atg 163
Val Gly Trp Arg Gly Met Val Gly Ser Val Leu Met Gln Arg Met Met

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Gln Glu Asn Asp Phe Ala Asp Ile Glu Pro Gln Phe Phe Thr Thr Ser			
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caa acg gga ggg gct gcg cct aaa gtt gga aaa gat act cct gcg ctg	259		
Gln Thr Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Lys Val Gly Lys Asp Thr Pro Ala Leu			
40	45	50	
aaa gat gcc aag gat att gat gct ttg cgc cag atg gat gtg att gtg	307		
Lys Asp Ala Lys Asp Ile Asp Ala Leu Arg Gln Met Asp Val Ile Val			
55	60	65	70
acc tgc cag ggt ggc gat tac acg agt gac gtc ttc cca caa ttg cgc	355		
Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg			
75	80	85	
gca acc ggc tgg agc ggc cac tgg att gac gcg gcc tct acc tta cgc	403		
Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg			
90	95	100	
atg gaa aaa gac tcc gtg atc att tta gac ccg gtg aac atg cat gtg	451		
Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp Pro Val Asn Met His Val			
105	110	115	
att aaa gat gca ttg tcc aat ggc ggc aaa aac tgg atc ggc ggc aac	499		
Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn			
120	125	130	
tgt acc gtc tca ctt atg ttg atg gcg ctg aat ggc ctg ttt aag gct	547		
Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala			
135	140	145	150
gac ctg gtc gag tgg gcc act tcc atg acc tac cag gcg gct tca ggc	595		
Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly			
155	160	165	
gca ggc gcg cag aat atg cgt gaa ctg att agc cag atg ggc gta gtg	643		
Ala Gly Ala Gln Asn Met Arg Glu Leu Ile Ser Gln Met Gly Val Val			
170	175	180	
aat gcc tcc gtg gct gat ttg ctg gcg gat cca gct tct gcc att ttg	691		
Asn Ala Ser Val Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Asp Pro Ala Ser Ala Ile Leu			
185	190	195	
cag atc gat aaa aca gtg gcg gat acc atc cgt agc gaa gag ttg cct	739		
Gln Ile Asp Lys Thr Val Ala Asp Thr Ile Arg Ser Glu Glu Leu Pro			
200	205	210	
aaa tct aac ttt ggt gtg cca ttg gcg ggc agt ctg atc cca tgg atc	787		



Lys Ser Asn Phe Gly Val Pro Leu Ala Gly Ser Leu Ile Pro Trp Ile  
 215 220 225 230  
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 Asp Lys Asp Leu Gly Asn Gly Gln Ser Lys Glu Glu Trp Lys Gly Gly  
 235 240 245  
 gta nag acc aat aag att tta ggt cgt gaa gcg aac ccg att gtg att 883  
 Val Xaa Thr Asn Lys Ile Leu Gly Arg Glu Ala Asn Pro Ile Val Ile  
 250 255 260  
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 Asp Gly Leu Cys Val Arg Ile Gly Ala Met Arg Cys His Ser Gln Ala  
 265 270 275  
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 Leu Thr Ile Lys Leu Arg Lys Asp Val Pro Leu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gln  
 280 285 290  
 atg ctg gct gaa gcg aac gac tgg gct aaa gtc att ccc aat gag cgt 1027  
 Met Leu Ala Glu Ala Asn Asp Trp Ala Lys Val Ile Pro Asn Glu Arg  
 295 300 305 310  
 gag gtc agt atg cgg gaa ctc acc ccg gca gcg att acc ggc agt ctg 1075  
 Glu Val Ser Met Arg Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala Ala Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu  
 315 320 325  
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 Ala Thr Pro Val Gly Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu Ala Met Gly Gly Glu Tyr  
 330 335 340  
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 345 350 355  
 cct ttg cgc aga atg ttg agg att ctg gtc gaa tct taagtaattg 1217  
 Pro Leu Arg Arg Met Leu Arg Ile Leu Val Glu Ser  
 360 365 370  
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 gaattactaa ggggttaatcg gtgagtaaat ttcaattaaa aaaaatagcc tttgc 1452

&lt;210&gt; 8

&lt;211&gt; 370

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Methylophilus methylotrophus

&lt;400&gt; 8

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1				5				10					15		
Leu	Met	Gln	Arg	Met	Met	Gln	Glu	Asn	Asp	Phe	Ala	Asp	Ile	Glu	Pro
			20				25						30		
Gln	Phe	Phe	Thr	Thr	Ser	Gln	Thr	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Lys	Val	Gly
		35					40					45			
Lys	Asp	Thr	Pro	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ala	Lys	Asp	Ile	Asp	Ala	Leu	Arg
	50					55					60				
Gln	Met	Asp	Val	Ile	Val	Thr	Cys	Gln	Gly	Gly	Asp	Tyr	Thr	Ser	Asp
65					70				75						80
Val	Phe	Pro	Gln	Leu	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gly	Trp	Ser	Gly	His	Trp	Ile	Asp
					85				90					95	
Ala	Ala	Ser	Thr	Leu	Arg	Met	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ser	Val	Ile	Ile	Leu	Asp
			100					105					110		
Pro	Val	Asn	Met	His	Val	Ile	Lys	Asp	Ala	Leu	Ser	Asn	Gly	Gly	Lys
		115					120						125		
Asn	Trp	Ile	Gly	Gly	Asn	Cys	Thr	Val	Ser	Leu	Met	Leu	Met	Ala	Leu
	130					135					140				
Asn	Gly	Leu	Phe	Lys	Ala	Asp	Leu	Val	Glu	Trp	Ala	Thr	Ser	Met	Thr
145					150				155						160
Tyr	Gln	Ala	Ala	Ser	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Gln	Asn	Met	Arg	Glu	Leu	Ile
				165					170					175	
Ser	Gln	Met	Gly	Val	Val	Asn	Ala	Ser	Val	Ala	Asp	Leu	Leu	Ala	Asp
		180						185					190		
Pro	Ala	Ser	Ala	Ile	Leu	Gln	Ile	Asp	Lys	Thr	Val	Ala	Asp	Thr	Ile
		195					200						205		
Arg	Ser	Glu	Glu	Leu	Pro	Lys	Ser	Asn	Phe	Gly	Val	Pro	Leu	Ala	Gly
	210					215					220				
Ser	Leu	Ile	Pro	Trp	Ile	Asp	Lys	Asp	Leu	Gly	Asn	Gly	Gln	Ser	Lys
225					230					235					240
Glu	Glu	Trp	Lys	Gly	Gly	Val	Xaa	Thr	Asn	Lys	Ile	Leu	Gly	Arg	Glu
			245						250					255	
Ala	Asn	Pro	Ile	Val	Ile	Asp	Gly	Leu	Cys	Val	Arg	Ile	Gly	Ala	Met
		260						265					270		
Arg	Cys	His	Ser	Gln	Ala	Leu	Thr	Ile	Lys	Leu	Arg	Lys	Asp	Val	Pro
	275						280						285		

Leu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Ala Glu Ala Asn Asp Trp Ala Lys  
 290 295 300  
 Val Ile Pro Asn Glu Arg Glu Val Ser Met Arg Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala  
 305 310 315 320  
 Ala Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Thr Pro Val Gly Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu  
 325 330 335  
 Ala Met Gly Gly Glu Tyr Leu Ser Ala Phe Thr Val Gly Asp Gln Leu  
 340 345 350  
 Leu Trp Gly Ala Ala Glu Pro Leu Arg Arg Met Leu Arg Ile Leu Val  
 355 360 365  
 Glu Ser  
 370

<210> 9

<211> 3098

<212> DNA

<213> *Methylophilus methylotrophus*

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1268)..(2155)

<400> 9

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 acattattcg cctttgcatg gtaaaggcct atggtcttga tgtaactttc aagacctgcc 120  
 agccccaaat ccaggatagc ctgcggtgtg ttggccacct tgaacaattt gcgggtggca 180  
 atattgacac ctttgtctgt cgctgtgca gacaagatga cggcaatcag taattcgaac 240  
 gtggagctat gctccagctc agtggttga ttggggatgg cttgggccag ccgtcaaat 300  
 atcgccagtc tttttgtgc attcataaaa cggtttcaat cataggtcac aggtcaacc 360  
 tgtcttttgc gctttgacgc gcgccatggc tgcggcaatg gcatttttct tgagcacctc 420  
 agttgagggt gtctcggtcg tagcaagcgt ctggttgctg ttgctgtagg tttgggcggt 480  
 ctcccgtttt tcaagggcga ggcgagaaag gcgttgctgg tggcgttgtc tcgctaccgc 540  
 ggcttcagct tcattcatgg cggtagcccg accgggaatc gtttgcattc gtatgcagtc 600  
 caccgggcag ggcggtaaac atagctcaca gccagtgcatt tcctgggaaa tcaccgtatg 660  
 catcagtttg gatgcgcca aaatggcatc aacgggacag gcctgtatac acagggtgca 720  
 gccgatgcat gtttcctcat caatcaaggc caccgctttg ggttttgtga tgccgtgggc 780  
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	Met	Ala	Leu	Gly	Met	Leu	Thr	Gly	Ser	Leu	Val	Ala	Ile	Val		
	1				5					10						
acc	ccc	atg	ttt	gaa	gat	gga	cgt	ttg	gat	ctg	gac	gcc	ctc	aaa	aag	1357
Thr	Pro	Met	Phe	Glu	Asp	Gly	Arg	Leu	Asp	Leu	Asp	Ala	Leu	Lys	Lys	
15					20					25				30		
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Leu	Val	Asp	Phe	His	Val	Glu	Ala	Gly	Thr	Asp	Gly	Ile	Val	Ile	Val	
				35					40					45		
ggc	acg	act	ggc	gag	tcg	ccc	acg	gtg	gat	gta	gat	gag	cat	tgt	ctg	1453
Gly	Thr	Thr	Gly	Glu	Ser	Pro	Thr	Val	Asp	Val	Asp	Glu	His	Cys	Leu	
			50					55					60			
ctg	atc	aaa	acc	acg	atc	gag	cat	gtc	gcc	aag	cgc	gtg	cca	gtc	att	1501
Leu	Ile	Lys	Thr	Thr	Ile	Glu	His	Val	Ala	Lys	Arg	Val	Pro	Val	Ile	
		65					70					75				
gcc	ggt	act	ggc	gca	aat	tcc	act	gct	gaa	gcc	att	gaa	ctg	act	gcc	1549
Ala	Gly	Thr	Gly	Ala	Asn	Ser	Thr	Ala	Glu	Ala	Ile	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ala	
	80					85					90					
aag	gcc	aag	gcg	ctt	ggc	gca	gac	gcc	tgc	ctg	ctg	gtg	gca	ccg	tat	1597
Lys	Ala	Lys	Ala	Leu	Gly	Ala	Asp	Ala	Cys	Leu	Leu	Val	Ala	Pro	Tyr	
95					100					105				110		
tac	aac	aag	ccc	tcg	caa	gag	ggt	ttg	tac	cag	cac	ttt	aaa	gcc	gtg	1645
Tyr	Asn	Lys	Pro	Ser	Gln	Glu	Gly	Leu	Tyr	Gln	His	Phe	Lys	Ala	Val	
				115					120				125			
gct	gag	gcg	gtc	gat	att	ccg	caa	att	ctc	tat	aat	gtg	cca	ggc	cgc	1693
Ala	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Ile	Pro	Gln	Ile	Leu	Tyr	Asn	Val	Pro	Gly	Arg	
			130					135				140				
acc	ggt	tgc	gac	ttg	tct	aac	gac	acc	gta	ttg	cgc	ctg	gcg	cag	att	1741
Thr	Gly	Cys	Asp	Leu	Ser	Asn	Asp	Thr	Val	Leu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Gln	Ile	
		145					150					155				
cgc	aac	att	gtc	ggg	att	aag	gat	gcg	act	gga	ggg	att	gag	cgc	ggt	1789
Arg	Asn	Ile	Val	Gly	Ile	Lys	Asp	Ala	Thr	Gly	Gly	Ile	Glu	Arg	Gly	

160	165	170	
acc gat ttg ttg ttg cgt gca cca gct gat ttc gcc att tac agc ggg			1837
Thr Asp Leu Leu Leu Arg Ala Pro Ala Asp Phe Ala Ile Tyr Ser Gly			
175	180	185	190
gat gat gcc act gcg ctg gcc ctg atg tta tta ggg ggg aaa ggc gtg			1885
Asp Asp Ala Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Leu Leu Gly Gly Lys Gly Val			
195	200	205	
att tcg gtc acg gcc aat gtc gcg ccc aaa tta atg cat gaa atg tgc			1933
Ile Ser Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys			
210	215	220	
gag cat gct ttg aat ggc aac ctg gcc gca gcc aaa gcg gcc aat gcc			1981
Glu His Ala Leu Asn Gly Asn Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Asn Ala			
225	230	235	
aaa ctg ttt gca ttg cac cag aag ttg ttt gta gaa gcg aac ccg att			2029
Lys Leu Phe Ala Leu His Gln Lys Leu Phe Val Glu Ala Asn Pro Ile			
240	245	250	
cca gtg aaa tgg gta tta caa caa atg gga atg att gcc act ggc atc			2077
Pro Val Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile			
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cgt ttg ccg ctg gtc aat tta tcc agc caa tat cat gaa gta ttg cgc			2125
Arg Leu Pro Leu Val Asn Leu Ser Ser Gln Tyr His Glu Val Leu Arg			
275	280	285	
aac gcc atg aag cag gca gaa att gcc gct tgatcggcta aaactaattt			2175
Asn Ala Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala			
290	295		
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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 Asp Phe His Val Glu Ala Gly Thr Asp Gly Ile Val Ile Val Gly Thr  
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 Thr Gly Glu Ser Pro Thr Val Asp Val Asp Glu His Cys Leu Leu Ile  
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 Lys Thr Thr Ile Glu His Val Ala Lys Arg Val Pro Val Ile Ala Gly  
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 Lys Ala Leu Gly Ala Asp Ala Cys Leu Leu Val Ala Pro Tyr Tyr Asn  
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 Lys Pro Ser Gln Glu Gly Leu Tyr Gln His Phe Lys Ala Val Ala Glu  
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 Cys Asp Leu Ser Asn Asp Thr Val Leu Arg Leu Ala Gln Ile Arg Asn  
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 Ile Val Gly Ile Lys Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Ile Glu Arg Gly Thr Asp  
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 Leu Leu Leu Arg Ala Pro Ala Asp Phe Ala Ile Tyr Ser Gly Asp Asp  
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 Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys Glu His  
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		260					265					270			
Pro	Leu	Val	Asn	Leu	Ser	Ser	Gln	Tyr	His	Glu	Val	Leu	Arg	Asn	Ala
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&lt;211&gt; 3390

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Methylophilus methylotrophus

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; CDS

&lt;222&gt; (2080)..(2883)

&lt;400&gt; 11

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Met Leu Lys Val Val

1

10

15

20

25

30



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                   105                                  110                                  115  
 atc gta ttt gct cca aac atg agc gta ggg gtc acc ctc ttg att aac 2478  
 Ile Val Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Ser Val Gly Val Thr Leu Leu Ile Asn  
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 ctg gtt gag caa gcc gca cgg gtg ctc aat gaa ggc tat gat att gag 2526  
 Leu Val Glu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Leu Asn Glu Gly Tyr Asp Ile Glu  
                   135                                  140                                  145  
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 Val Val Glu Met His His Arg His Lys Val Asp Ala Pro Ser Gly Thr  
                   150                                  155                                  160                                  165  
 gct tta cgg ttg ggt gag gct gcg gca aaa ggg att gat aaa gcg ctt 2622  
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                   170                                  175                                  180  
 aaa gat tgt gct gtg tat gcg cgc gaa ggc gtg act ggt gaa cgc gaa 2670  
 Lys Asp Cys Ala Val Tyr Ala Arg Glu Gly Val Thr Gly Glu Arg Glu  
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 gcg ggc acg att ggt ttt gca acc tta cgt ggt ggg gat gtg gtc ggt 2718  
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 Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu Arg Val Glu Leu Thr  
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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Gly	Tyr	Asp	Ile	Glu	Val	Val	Glu	Met	His	His	Arg	His	Lys	Val	Asp
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Ala	Pro	Ser	Gly	Thr	Ala	Leu	Arg	Leu	Gly	Glu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Gly
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210						215						220			

Arg Val Glu Leu Thr His Lys Ala Ser Ser Arg Ala Thr Phe Ala Gln  
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<213> *Methylophilus methylotrophus*

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<222> (751)..(1995)

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Val Thr Ala Phe Ser Ile Gln Gln

1

5

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 cat caa acg ccc act tac gtc tat tca cgt gcc gcc ttg acg act gct 870  
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 25 30 35 40

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Phe Glu Arg Phe Gln Ala Gly Leu Thr Gly His Asp His Leu Ile Cys	
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Ile Gly Ser Gln Ile Thr Glu Leu Ser Pro Phe Leu Asp Ala Leu Asp	
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Lys Val Leu Gly Leu Val Asp Ala Leu Ala Ala Lys Gly Ile His Ile	
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<213> *Methylophilus methylotrophus*

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 Thr Gly His Asp His Leu Ile Cys Phe Ala Val Lys Ala Asn Pro Ser  
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 85 90 95  
 Lys Lys Val Val Phe Ser Gly Val Gly Lys Ser His Ala Glu Ile Lys  
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 Pro Ile Ser Leu Arg Val Asn Pro Asn Val Asp Ala Lys Thr His Pro  
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 Tyr Ile Ser His Pro Ala Leu Lys Asn Asn Lys Phe Gly Val Ala Phe  
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Ser Pro Phe Leu Asp Ala Leu Asp Lys Val Leu Gly Leu Val Asp Ala		
210	215	220
Leu Ala Ala Lys Gly Ile His Ile Gln His Ile Asp Val Gly Gly Gly		
225	230	235
Val Gly Ile Thr Tyr Ser Asp Glu Thr Pro Pro Asp Phe Ala Ala Tyr		
245	250	255
Thr Ala Ala Ile Leu Lys Lys Leu Ala Gly Arg Asn Val Lys Val Leu		
260	265	270
Phe Glu Pro Gly Arg Ala Leu Val Gly Asn Ala Gly Val Leu Leu Thr		
275	280	285
Lys Val Glu Tyr Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Thr Lys Asn Phe Ala Ile Val		
290	295	300
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His Asn Ile Thr Thr Ile Ala Thr Ser Ala Ala Pro Ala Gln Ile Tyr		
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Glu Ile Val Gly Pro Val Cys Glu Ser Gly Asp Phe Leu Gly His Asp		
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Arg Thr Leu Ala Ile Glu Glu Gly Asp Tyr Leu Ala Ile His Ser Ala		
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Gly Ala Tyr Gly Met Ser Met Ala Ser Asn Tyr Asn Thr Arg Ala Arg		
370	375	380
Ala Ala Glu Val Leu Val Asp Gly Asp Gln Val His Val Ile Arg Glu		
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&lt;211&gt; 39

&lt;212&gt; DNA

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; primer for amplification of tac promoter

&lt;400&gt; 15

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55

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> GUNJI, YOSHIYA

YASUEDA, HISASHI

SUGIMOTO, SHINICHI

TSUJIMOTO, NOBUHARU

SHIMAOKA, MEGUMI

MIYATA, YURI

OBA, MANAMI

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<130> 212289US0PCT

<150> PCT/JP 00/02295

<151> 2000-04-17

<150> JP 11-103143

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<150> JP 11-169447

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<151> 1999-12-24

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<170> PatentIn version 3.1

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Met Phe Thr Gly Ser Ile Val  
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Ala Ile Val Thr Pro Met Asp Glu Lys Gly Asn Val Cys Arg Ala Ser  
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Leu Lys Lys Leu Ile Asp Tyr His Val Ala Ser Gly Thr Ser Ala Ile  
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cat gct gat gtg gtg atg atg acg ctg gat ctg gct gat ggg cgc att 484  
His Ala Asp Val Val Met Met Thr Leu Asp Leu Ala Asp Gly Arg Ile

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Thr Arg Val Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Leu Val Ser Asp Asp Phe Val Leu															
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Gln Met Cys Lys Leu Ala Ala Glu Glu His Phe Ala Glu Ala Arg Val															
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265

270

275

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&lt;211&gt; 292

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Escherichia coli

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Gly Asn Val Cys Arg Ala Ser Leu Lys Lys Leu Ile Asp Tyr His Val  
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Ala Ser Gly Thr Ser Ala Ile Val Ser Val Gly Thr Thr Gly Glu Ser  
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Ala Thr Leu Asn His Asp Glu His Ala Asp Val Val Met Met Thr Leu  
 50 55 60

Asp Leu Ala Asp Gly Arg Ile Pro Val Ile Ala Gly Thr Gly Ala Asn  
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Ala Thr Ala Glu Ala Ile Ser Leu Thr Gln Arg Phe Asn Asp Ser Gly  
 85 90 95

Ile Val Gly Cys Leu Thr Val Thr Pro Tyr Tyr Asn Arg Pro Ser Gln  
 100 105 110

Glu Gly Leu Tyr Gln His Phe Lys Ala Ile Ala Glu His Thr Asp Leu  
 115 120 125

Pro Gln Ile Leu Tyr Asn Val Pro Ser Arg Thr Gly Cys Asp Leu Leu  
130 135 140

Pro Glu Thr Val Gly Arg Leu Ala Lys Val Lys Asn Ile Ile Gly Ile  
145 150 155 160

Lys Glu Ala Thr Gly Asn Leu Thr Arg Val Asn Gln Ile Lys Glu Leu  
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Val Ser Asp Asp Phe Val Leu Leu Ser Gly Asp Asp Ala Ser Ala Leu  
180 185 190

Asp Phe Met Gln Leu Gly Gly His Gly Val Ile Ser Val Thr Thr Asn  
195 200 205

Val Ala Ala Arg Asp Met Ala Gln Met Cys Lys Leu Ala Ala Glu Glu  
210 215 220

His Phe Ala Glu Ala Arg Val Ile Asn Gln Arg Leu Met Pro Leu His  
225 230 235 240

Asn Lys Leu Phe Val Glu Pro Asn Pro Ile Pro Val Lys Trp Ala Cys  
245 250 255

Lys Glu Leu Gly Leu Val Ala Thr Asp Thr Leu Arg Leu Pro Met Thr  
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                                     Met Ser Glu Ile
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gtt gtc tcc aaa ttt ggc ggt acc agc gta gct gat ttt gac gcc atg      643
Val Val Ser Lys Phe Gly Gly Thr Ser Val Ala Asp Phe Asp Ala Met
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aac cgc agc gct gat att gtg ctt tct gat gcc aac gtg cgt tta gtt      691
Asn Arg Ser Ala Asp Ile Val Leu Ser Asp Ala Asn Val Arg Leu Val
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gtc ctc tcg gct tct gct ggt atc act aat ctg ctg gtc gct tta gct      739
Val Leu Ser Ala Ser Ala Gly Ile Thr Asn Leu Leu Val Ala Leu Ala
                               40                               45                               50

gaa gga ctg gaa cct ggc gag cga ttc gaa aaa ctc gac gct atc cgc      787
Glu Gly Leu Glu Pro Gly Glu Arg Phe Glu Lys Leu Asp Ala Ile Arg
55                               60                               65

aac atc cag ttt gcc att ctg gaa cgt ctg cgt tac ccg aac gtt atc      835
Asn Ile Gln Phe Ala Ile Leu Glu Arg Leu Arg Tyr Pro Asn Val Ile
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70	75	80	
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gcg gcg gcg ctg gca acg tct ccg gcg ctg aca gat gag ctg gtc agc Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Thr Ser Pro Ala Leu Thr Asp Glu Leu Val Ser 105 110 115			931
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cgc gat gtt cag gca cag tgg ttt gat gta cgt aaa gtg atg cgt acc Arg Asp Val Gln Ala Gln Trp Phe Asp Val Arg Lys Val Met Arg Thr 135 140 145			1027
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280							285					290					
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act	ctg	ctc	act	ttg	cac	agc	ctg	aat	atg	ctg	cat	tct	cg	ggt	ttc	1555	
Thr	Leu	Leu	Thr	Leu	His	Ser	Leu	Asn	Met	Leu	His	Ser	Arg	Gly	Phe		
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Glu	Leu	Ser	Ala	Leu	Cys	Arg	Val	Glu	Val	Glu	Glu	Gly	Leu	Ala	Leu		
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gtc	gcg	ttg	att	ggc	aat	gac	ctg	tca	aaa	gcc	tgc	ggc	ggt	ggc	aaa	1795	
Val	Ala	Leu	Ile	Gly	Asn	Asp	Leu	Ser	Lys	Ala	Cys	Gly	Val	Gly	Lys		
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gag	gta	ttc	ggc	gta	ctg	gaa	ccg	ttc	aac	att	cg	atg	att	tgt	tat	1843	
Glu	Val	Phe	Gly	Val	Leu	Glu	Pro	Phe	Asn	Ile	Arg	Met	Ile	Cys	Tyr		
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Glu	Gln	Val	Val	Gln	Lys	Leu	His	Ser	Asn	Leu	Phe	Glu					
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35 40 45

Val Ala Leu Ala Glu Gly Leu Glu Pro Gly Glu Arg Phe Glu Lys Leu  
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Asp Ala Ile Arg Asn Ile Gln Phe Ala Ile Leu Glu Arg Leu Arg Tyr  
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Pro Asn Val Ile Arg Glu Glu Ile Glu Arg Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Thr  
85 90 95

Val Leu Ala Glu Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Thr Ser Pro Ala Leu Thr Asp  
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Glu Leu Val Ser His Gly Glu Leu Met Ser Thr Leu Leu Phe Val Glu  
115 120 125

Ile Leu Arg Glu Arg Asp Val Gln Ala Gln Trp Phe Asp Val Arg Lys  
130 135 140

Val Met Arg Thr Asn Asp Arg Phe Gly Arg Ala Glu Pro Asp Ile Ala  
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Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Ala Ala Leu Gln Leu Leu Pro Arg Leu Asn Glu  
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Gly Leu Val Ile Thr Gln Gly Phe Ile Gly Ser Glu Asn Lys Gly Arg  
180 185 190

Thr Thr Thr Leu Gly Arg Gly Gly Ser Asp Tyr Thr Ala Ala Leu Leu  
195 200 205

Ala Glu Ala Leu His Ala Ser Arg Val Asp Ile Trp Thr Asp Val Pro  
210 215 220

Gly Ile Tyr Thr Thr Asp Pro Arg Val Val Ser Ala Ala Lys Arg Ile  
225 230 235 240

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Lys Val Leu His Pro Ala Thr Leu Leu Pro Ala Val Arg Ser Asp Ile  
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Pro Val Phe Val Gly Ser Ser Lys Asp Pro Arg Ala Gly Gly Thr Leu  
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Val Cys Asn Lys Thr Glu Asn Pro Pro Leu Phe Arg Ala Leu Ala Leu  
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Arg Arg Asn Gln Thr Leu Leu Thr Leu His Ser Leu Asn Met Leu His  
305 310 315 320

Ser Arg Gly Phe Leu Ala Glu Val Phe Gly Ile Leu Ala Arg His Asn  
325 330 335

Ile Ser Val Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr Ser Glu Val Ser Val Ala Leu Thr  
340 345 350

Leu Asp Thr Thr Gly Ser Thr Ser Thr Gly Asp Thr Leu Leu Thr Gln  
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Ser Leu Leu Met Glu Leu Ser Ala Leu Cys Arg Val Glu Val Glu Glu  
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Gly Leu Ala Leu Val Ala Leu Ile Gly Asn Asp Leu Ser Lys Ala Cys  
 385 390 395 400

Gly Val Gly Lys Glu Val Phe Gly Val Leu Glu Pro Phe Asn Ile Arg  
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cgc gtg gcg cgt tac aag gca ttg ggc cac cag gtg gtg gtt gtg gta	629
Arg Val Ala Arg Tyr Lys Ala Leu Gly His Gln Val Val Val Val Val	
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tcc gca atg tct ggt gaa acc aac cgg ttg atc tca ctg gcc aag gaa	677
Ser Ala Met Ser Gly Glu Thr Asn Arg Leu Ile Ser Leu Ala Lys Glu	
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atc atg caa gac cct gat cca cgt gag ctg gat gtg atg gta tca acc	725
Ile Met Gln Asp Pro Asp Pro Arg Glu Leu Asp Val Met Val Ser Thr	
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Gly Glu Gln Val Thr Ile Gly Met Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Glu Leu	
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Gly Ile Lys Ala Lys Ser Tyr Thr Gly Thr Gln Val Lys Ile Leu Thr	
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Ser Asp Thr Thr Gly Val Ala Leu Ala Ala Ala Leu Lys Ala Asp Glu	
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Cys Gln Ile Tyr Thr Asp Val Asp Gly Val Tyr Thr Thr Asp Pro Arg	
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cat His	aaa Lys	aat Asn 315	gag Glu	atg Met	aac Asn	aaa Lys	gcc Ala 320	ctg Leu	agc Ser	att Ile	ctt Leu	aga Arg 325	gat Asp	aaa Lys	gtg Val	1493
cag Gln 330	ggc Gly	cat His	atc Ile	cag Gln	gca Ala	cgt Arg 335	gaa Glu	atc Ile	agc Ser	ggc Gly	gac Asp 340	gac Asp	aag Lys	att Ile	gcc Ala	1541
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Met Glu Leu Ala Val Arg Val Leu His Lys Ala Phe Gly Leu Glu Asn	
395 400 405	

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Ala	

gattttttgaa gggtttttcac gtagtatggc agcccttcga tgcagtagca atgctgcaaa	1846
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gagaacagca tgccgctgtg ttggtactat taaaacttca ttgttttaaat aaggtgaggg	1906
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<211> 409

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Arg	Leu	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Lys	Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Asp	Pro	Asp	Pro	Arg
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Glu	Leu	Asp	Val	Met	Val	Ser	Thr	Gly	Glu	Gln	Val	Thr	Ile	Gly	Met
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Tyr	Val	Cys	Val	Val	Ala	Gly	Phe	Gln	Gly	Val	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Asn	130	135	140	
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Asp	Lys	Ile	Thr	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ser	195	200	205	
Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Ile	Arg	Ser	Val	Glu	Phe	Ala	Gly	Lys	Tyr	Lys	Val	210	215	220	
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Pro	Asp	Lys	Pro	Gly	Ile	Ala	Tyr	Gln	Ile	Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp	275	280	285	
Ala	Asn	Ile	Asp	Val	Asp	Met	Ile	Ile	Gln	Asn	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	Gly	290	295	300	



Thr Thr Asp Phe Thr Phe Thr Val His Lys Asn Glu Met Asn Lys Ala  
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Leu Ser Ile Leu Arg Asp Lys Val Gln Gly His Ile Gln Ala Arg Glu  
 325 330 335

Ile Ser Gly Asp Asp Lys Ile Ala Lys Val Ser Val Val Gly Val Gly  
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Met Arg Ser His Val Gly Ile Ala Ser Gln Met Phe Arg Thr Leu Ala  
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Glu Glu Gly Ile Asn Ile Gln Met Ile Ser Thr Ser Glu Ile Lys Ile  
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His Lys Ala Phe Gly Leu Glu Asn Ala  
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Met Leu Lys Val Gly Phe  
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gta ggc tgg cgt ggc atg gtt gga tcc gtg cta atg cag cgc atg atg 163  
Val Gly Trp Arg Gly Met Val Gly Ser Val Leu Met Gln Arg Met Met  
10 15 20

cag gaa aac gat ttt gcg gat att gaa ccg caa ttc ttt acg acc tca 211  
Gln Glu Asn Asp Phe Ala Asp Ile Glu Pro Gln Phe Phe Thr Thr Ser  
25 30 35

caa acg gga ggg gct gcg cct aaa gtt gga aaa gat act cct gcg ctg 259  
Gln Thr Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Lys Val Gly Lys Asp Thr Pro Ala Leu  
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Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg  
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gca acc ggc tgg agc ggc cac tgg att gac gcg gcc tct acc tta cgc 403  
Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg  
90 95 100

atg gaa aaa gac tcc gtg atc att tta gac ccg gtg aac atg cat gtg 451  
Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp Pro Val Asn Met His Val  
105 110 115

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Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn  
120 125 130

tgt acc gtc tca ctt atg ttg atg gcg ctg aat ggc ctg ttt aag gct 547  
Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala  
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gac ctg gtc gag tgg gcc act tcc atg acc tac cag gcg gct tca ggc 595  
Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly  
155 160 165

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cag Gln	atc Ile 200	gat Asp	aaa Lys	aca Thr	gtg Val	gcg Ala 205	gat Asp	acc Thr	atc Ile	cgt Arg	agc Ser 210	gaa Glu	gag Glu	ttg Leu	cct Pro	739
aaa Lys 215	tct Ser	aac Asn	ttt Phe	ggt Gly 220	gtg Val	cca Pro	ttg Leu	gcg Ala	ggc Gly 225	agt Ser	ctg Leu	atc Ile	cca Pro	tgg Trp	atc Ile 230	787
gac Asp	aag Lys	gac Asp	tta Leu 235	ggg Gly 235	aat Asn	ggt Gly	caa Gln	agt Ser 240	aaa Lys	gaa Glu	gaa Glu	tgg Trp	aag Lys	ggc Gly 245	ggc Gly	835
gta Val	nag Xaa	acc Thr	aat Asn 250	aag Lys	att Ile	tta Leu	ggt Gly 255	cgt Arg	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn	ccg Pro	att Ile 260	gtg Val	att Ile	883
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ttg Leu 280	act Thr	atc Ile	aag Lys	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	aag Lys 285	gat Asp	gtg Val	ccg Pro	ctg Leu	gat Asp 290	gaa Glu	atc Ile	aat Asn	cag Gln	979
atg Met 295	ctg Leu	gct Ala	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn 300	gac Asp	tgg Trp	gct Ala	aaa Lys	gtc Val 305	att Ile	ccc Pro	aat Asn	gag Glu	cgt Arg 310	1027
gag Glu	gtc Val	agt Ser	atg Met	cgg Arg 315	gaa Glu	ctc Leu	acc Thr	ccg Pro	gca Ala 320	gcg Ala	att Ile	acc Thr	ggc Gly 325	agt Ser	ctg Leu	1075
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cct Pro 360	ttg Leu	cgc Arg	aga Arg	atg Met	ttg Leu	agg Arg 365	att Ile	ctg Leu	gtc Val	gaa Glu	tct Ser 370	taagtaattg				1217

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<210> 8
<211> 370
<212> PRT
<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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<223> The 'Xaa' at location 248 stands for Lys, Glu, or Gln.
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<222> (839)..(839)
<223> n = a, c, or g

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Gln Phe Phe Thr Thr Ser Gln Thr Gly Gly Ala Ala Pro Lys Val Gly
          35          40          45
Lys Asp Thr Pro Ala Leu Lys Asp Ala Lys Asp Ile Asp Ala Leu Arg

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50

55

60

Gln Met Asp Val Ile Val Thr Cys Gln Gly Gly Asp Tyr Thr Ser Asp  
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Val Phe Pro Gln Leu Arg Ala Thr Gly Trp Ser Gly His Trp Ile Asp  
85 90 95

Ala Ala Ser Thr Leu Arg Met Glu Lys Asp Ser Val Ile Ile Leu Asp  
100 105 110

Pro Val Asn Met His Val Ile Lys Asp Ala Leu Ser Asn Gly Gly Lys  
115 120 125

Asn Trp Ile Gly Gly Asn Cys Thr Val Ser Leu Met Leu Met Ala Leu  
130 135 140

Asn Gly Leu Phe Lys Ala Asp Leu Val Glu Trp Ala Thr Ser Met Thr  
145 150 155 160

Tyr Gln Ala Ala Ser Gly Ala Gly Ala Gln Asn Met Arg Glu Leu Ile  
165 170 175

Ser Gln Met Gly Val Val Asn Ala Ser Val Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Asp  
180 185 190

Pro Ala Ser Ala Ile Leu Gln Ile Asp Lys Thr Val Ala Asp Thr Ile  
195 200 205

Arg Ser Glu Glu Leu Pro Lys Ser Asn Phe Gly Val Pro Leu Ala Gly  
210 215 220

Ser Leu Ile Pro Trp Ile Asp Lys Asp Leu Gly Asn Gly Gln Ser Lys  
225 230 235 240

Glu Glu Trp Lys Gly Gly Val Xaa Thr Asn Lys Ile Leu Gly Arg Glu  
245 250 255

Ala Asn Pro Ile Val Ile Asp Gly Leu Cys Val Arg Ile Gly Ala Met

260

265

270

Arg Cys His Ser Gln Ala Leu Thr Ile Lys Leu Arg Lys Asp Val Pro  
 275 280 285

Leu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Ala Glu Ala Asn Asp Trp Ala Lys  
 290 295 300

Val Ile Pro Asn Glu Arg Glu Val Ser Met Arg Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala  
 305 310 315 320

Ala Ile Thr Gly Ser Leu Ala Thr Pro Val Gly Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu  
 325 330 335

Ala Met Gly Gly Glu Tyr Leu Ser Ala Phe Thr Val Gly Asp Gln Leu  
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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<222> (1268)..(2155)

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Thr Pro Met Phe Glu Asp Gly Arg Leu Asp Leu Asp Ala Leu Lys Lys	
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ctg Leu	atc Ile	aaa Lys 65	acc Thr	acg Thr	atc Ile	gag Glu	cat His 70	gtc Val	gcc Ala	aag Lys	cgc Arg	gtg Val 75	cca Pro	gtc Val	att Ile	1501
gcc Ala 80	ggt Gly	act Thr	ggc Gly	gca Ala	aat Asn	tcc Ser 85	act Thr	gct Ala	gaa Glu	gcc Ala	att Ile 90	gaa Glu	ctg Leu	act Thr	gcc Ala	1549
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tac Tyr	aac Asn	aag Lys	ccc Pro	tcg Ser 115	caa Gln	gag Glu	ggt Gly	ttg Leu	tac Tyr 120	cag Gln	cac His	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gcc Ala 125	gtg Val	1645
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cgc Arg 160	aac Asn	att Ile	gtc Val	ggg Gly	att Ile	aag Lys 165	gat Asp	gcg Ala	act Thr	gga Gly	ggg Gly 170	att Ile	gag Glu	cgc Arg	ggt Gly	1789
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att Ile	tcg Ser	gtc Val	acg Thr 210	gcc Ala	aat Asn	gtc Val	gcg Ala	ccc Pro 215	aaa Lys	tta Leu	atg Met	cat His	gaa Glu 220	atg Met	tgc Cys	1933
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aaa Lys	ctg Leu	ttt Phe	gca Ala	ttg Leu	cac His	cag Gln	aag Lys	ttg Leu	ttt Phe	gta Val	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	aac Asn	ccg Pro	att Ile	2029



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Pro Val Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile			
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cgT ttg ccg ctg gtc aat tta tcc agc caa tat cat gaa gta ttg cgc			2125
Arg Leu Pro Leu Val Asn Leu Ser Ser Gln Tyr His Glu Val Leu Arg			
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aac gcc atg aag cag gca gaa att gcc gct tgatcggcta aaactaattt			2175
Asn Ala Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala			
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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Thr Gly Glu Ser Pro Thr Val Asp Val Asp Glu His Cys Leu Leu Ile  
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Lys Thr Thr Ile Glu His Val Ala Lys Arg Val Pro Val Ile Ala Gly  
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Thr Gly Ala Asn Ser Thr Ala Glu Ala Ile Glu Leu Thr Ala Lys Ala  
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Lys Ala Leu Gly Ala Asp Ala Cys Leu Leu Val Ala Pro Tyr Tyr Asn  
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Lys Pro Ser Gln Glu Gly Leu Tyr Gln His Phe Lys Ala Val Ala Glu  
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Ala Val Asp Ile Pro Gln Ile Leu Tyr Asn Val Pro Gly Arg Thr Gly  
130 135 140

Cys Asp Leu Ser Asn Asp Thr Val Leu Arg Leu Ala Gln Ile Arg Asn  
145 150 155 160

Ile Val Gly Ile Lys Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Ile Glu Arg Gly Thr Asp  
165 170 175

Leu Leu Leu Arg Ala Pro Ala Asp Phe Ala Ile Tyr Ser Gly Asp Asp  
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Ala Thr Ala Leu Ala Leu Met Leu Leu Gly Gly Lys Gly Val Ile Ser  
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Val Thr Ala Asn Val Ala Pro Lys Leu Met His Glu Met Cys Glu His  
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Ala Leu Asn Gly Asn Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Asn Ala Lys Leu  
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Phe Ala Leu His Gln Lys Leu Phe Val Glu Ala Asn Pro Ile Pro Val  
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Lys Trp Val Leu Gln Gln Met Gly Met Ile Ala Thr Gly Ile Arg Leu  
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Met Lys Gln Ala Glu Ile Ala Ala  
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<210> 11

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<212> DNA

<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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<223>

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aaa gat tgt gct gtg tat gcg cgc gaa ggc gtg act ggt gaa cgc gaa Lys Asp Cys Ala Val Tyr Ala Arg Glu Gly Val Thr Gly Glu Arg Glu 185 190 195			2670
gcg ggc acg att ggt ttt gca acc tta cgt ggt ggg gat gtg gtc ggt Ala Gly Thr Ile Gly Phe Ala Thr Leu Arg Gly Gly Asp Val Val Gly 200 205 210			2718
gac cat acg gtg gtt ctg gct ggt gtg ggt gag cga gta gag tta acg Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu Arg Val Glu Leu Thr 215 220 225			2766
cat aaa gca tca agc cgt gcc aca ttt gca caa ggt gcg tta cgt gcg His Lys Ala Ser Ser Arg Ala Thr Phe Ala Gln Gly Ala Leu Arg Ala 230 235 240 245			2814
gct aaa ttt ctg gct gat aaa ccc aag gga ttg ttt gat atg cgt gat Ala Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Lys Pro Lys Gly Leu Phe Asp Met Arg Asp 250 255 260			2862
gtg ttg gga ttt gaa aag aac tgatcttttag taggcgatcc cgtctggcta Val Leu Gly Phe Glu Lys Asn 265			2913
aggtctggca ggaatcgtct gatgcttctg agttgccctt gaggggctg tcaatgtacg			2973
ctataatgct gtaattctga aacgggaaga gtcgaacaag cttttcccgt tttgcacatc			3033
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<213> Methylophilus methylotrophus

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20 25 30

Leu Asp Arg Ala Glu Ser Ala Met Ile Gly Arg Asp Ala Gly Glu Gln  
35 40 45

Phe Gly Lys Val Ser Gly Val Lys Ile Thr Ala Asp Ile His Ala Ala  
50 55 60

Leu Val Gly Ala Asp Val Leu Val Asp Phe Thr Arg Pro Glu Ala Ser  
65 70 75 80

Met Gln Tyr Leu Gln Ala Cys Gln Gln Ala Asn Val Lys Leu Val Ile  
85 90 95

Gly Thr Thr Gly Phe Ser Glu Ala Glu Lys Ala Ser Ile Glu Ala Ala  
100 105 110

Ser Lys Asn Ile Gly Ile Val Phe Ala Pro Asn Met Ser Val Gly Val  
115 120 125

Thr Leu Leu Ile Asn Leu Val Glu Gln Ala Ala Arg Val Leu Asn Glu  
130 135 140

Gly Tyr Asp Ile Glu Val Val Glu Met His His Arg His Lys Val Asp  
145 150 155 160

Ala Pro Ser Gly Thr Ala Leu Arg Leu Gly Glu Ala Ala Ala Lys Gly  
165 170 175

Ile Asp Lys Ala Leu Lys Asp Cys Ala Val Tyr Ala Arg Glu Gly Val  
180 185 190

Thr Gly Glu Arg Glu Ala Gly Thr Ile Gly Phe Ala Thr Leu Arg Gly  
195 200 205

Gly Asp Val Val Gly Asp His Thr Val Val Leu Ala Gly Val Gly Glu  
210 215 220

Arg Val Glu Leu Thr His Lys Ala Ser Ser Arg Ala Thr Phe Ala Gln  
225 230 235 240

Gly Ala Leu Arg Ala Ala Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Lys Pro Lys Gly Leu  
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Phe Asp Met Arg Asp Val Leu Gly Phe Glu Lys Asn  
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<222> (2467)..(2467)

<223> n = a, c, g, or t



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aattgcccac attctgaccg gatttaccgg tggcttttaa ggtataagtg gtcgctgact 180

ggttctcaat gctgtaatca aaaaatttgg catcactggg gacacaggca aatcccacat 240

atgtgaagtt gtcctgataa aactgttcgg cctgcacacg gcaattggca agattggcag 300

gcgcttcogc ggcattaccg cttttgatgt aatcctgata gcctgggatg gcgatgctgg 360

ccaagatacc cataatggcc accacgacca tgacttctat caggctgaat cegtactgat 420

ttgaggactt cattatcaaa ccccttttta gatagcctta tcatgcaaac aggcagctgt 480

catgtccagc atcagccgac caatggtcag gattaccoga cgaacgggtca aaccactaaa 540

accccagtc actggtgcca tgagcaactg caggtttaat gataaaatgg cactcaattt 600

acattggact gtgaacatgt tttccttcta tacgagatta ttggcggttg ccctgctatt 660

ggcacaattg agtgctgtg gtctcaaagg ggacctgtat attcctgagc gccaataccc 720

tcaaacgcct caacaagata agtcttcatc gtg acc gct ttt tca atc caa caa 774  
Val Thr Ala Phe Ser Ile Gln Gln  
1 5

ggc cta cta cat gcc gag aat gta gcc ctg cgt gac att gca caa acg 822  
Gly Leu Leu His Ala Glu Asn Val Ala Leu Arg Asp Ile Ala Gln Thr  
10 15 20

cat caa acg ccc act tac gtc tat tca cgt gcc gcc ttg acg act gct 870  
His Gln Thr Pro Thr Tyr Val Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Leu Thr Thr Ala  
25 30 35 40

ttc gag cgt ttt cag gca ggc ctg act gga cat gac cat ttg atc tgc 918  
Phe Glu Arg Phe Gln Ala Gly Leu Thr Gly His Asp His Leu Ile Cys  
45 50 55

ttt gct gtc aaa gcc aac cca agc ctg gcc att ctc aac ctg ttt gcg 966  
Phe Ala Val Lys Ala Asn Pro Ser Leu Ala Ile Leu Asn Leu Phe Ala  
60 65 70

cga atg gga gcg ggc ttt gat att gtg tcc ggt ggt gag ctg gca cgc 1014  
Arg Met Gly Ala Gly Phe Asp Ile Val Ser Gly Gly Glu Leu Ala Arg  
75 80 85

gtc ttg gcc gca ggt ggc gac ccg aaa aaa gtg gtg ttt tct ggt gtg 1062

Val 90	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asp 95	Pro	Lys	Lys	Val	Val 100	Phe	Ser	Gly	Val	
ggc Gly 105	aaa Lys	tcc Ser	cat His	gcg Ala	gaa Glu 110	atc Ile	aaa Lys	gcc Ala	gcg Ala	ctt Leu 115	gaa Glu	gcg Ala	ggc Gly	att Ile	ctt Leu 120	1110
tgc Cys	ttc Phe	aac Asn	gtg Val	gaa Glu 125	tca Ser	gtg Val	aat Asn	gag Glu	cta Leu 130	gac Asp	cgc Arg	atc Ile	cag Gln	cag Gln 135	gtg Val	1158
gcg Ala	gcc Ala	agc Ser	ctg Leu 140	ggc Gly	aaa Lys	aaa Lys	gcg Ala	cct Pro 145	att Ile	tcc Ser	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	gtg Val 150	aac Asn	ccc Pro	1206
aat Asn	gtg Val	gat Asp 155	gcc Ala	aaa Lys	aca Thr	cat His	ccc Pro 160	tat Tyr	att Ile	tcc Ser	cac His	ccg Pro 165	gct Ala	ctc Leu	aaa Lys	1254
aac Asn 170	aat Asn	aaa Lys	ttt Phe	ggt Gly	gtg Val	gca Ala 175	ttt Phe	gaa Glu	gat Asp	gcc Ala 180	ttg Leu	ggc Gly	ctc Leu	tat Tyr	gaa Glu	1302
aaa Lys 185	gcg Ala	gcg Ala	caa Gln	ctg Leu 190	cca Pro	aac Asn	atc Ile	gag Glu	gta Val	cac His 195	ggc Gly	gta Val	gat Asp	tgc Cys	cat His 200	1350
atc Ile	ggc Gly	tcg Ser	caa Gln 205	atc Ile	act Thr	gag Glu	ctg Leu	tca Ser	cct Pro 210	ttc Phe	ctc Leu	gat Asp	gcc Ala	ttg Leu 215	gat Asp	1398
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cag Gln	cat His	ata Ile 235	gac Asp	gtt Val	ggc Gly	ggc Gly	ggt Gly 240	gtc Val	ggt Gly	att Ile	act Thr	tac Tyr 245	agc Ser	gac Asp	gaa Glu	1494
acg Thr 250	cca Pro	cca Pro	gac Asp	ttt Phe	gca Ala	gcc Ala 255	tac Tyr	act Thr	gca Ala	gcg Ala	att Ile 260	ctt Leu	aaa Lys	aag Lys	ctg Leu	1542
gca Ala 265	ggc Gly	agg Arg	aat Asn	gta Val	aaa Lys 270	gtg Val	ttg Leu	ttt Phe	gag Glu	ccc Pro 275	ggc Gly	cgt Arg	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	gtg Val 280	1590
ggt Gly	aac Asn	gcc Ala	ggt Gly	gtg Val	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	acc Thr	aag Lys	gtc Val 290	gaa Glu	tac Tyr	ctg Leu	aaa Lys	cct Pro 295	ggc Gly	1638
gaa	acc	aaa	aac	ttt	gcg	att	gtc	gat	gcc	gcc	atg	aac	gac	ctc	atg	1686

Glu	Thr	Lys	Asn	Phe	Ala	Ile	Val	Asp	Ala	Ala	Met	Asn	Asp	Leu	Met	
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cgc	ccg	gct	ttg	tat	gat	gct	ttc	cac	aac	att	acg	acc	att	gcc	act	1734
Arg	Pro	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asp	Ala	Phe	His	Asn	Ile	Thr	Thr	Ile	Ala	Thr	
		315					320					325				
tct	gca	gcc	ccc	gca	caa	atc	tat	gag	atc	gtt	ggc	ccg	gtt	tgc	gag	1782
Ser	Ala	Ala	Pro	Ala	Gln	Ile	Tyr	Glu	Ile	Val	Gly	Pro	Val	Cys	Glu	
	330					335					340					
agt	ggt	gac	ttt	tta	ggc	cat	gac	cgt	aca	ctt	gcg	atc	gaa	gaa	ggt	1830
Ser	Gly	Asp	Phe	Leu	Gly	His	Asp	Arg	Thr	Leu	Ala	Ile	Glu	Glu	Gly	
345					350					355					360	
gat	tac	ctg	gcg	att	cac	tcc	gca	ggc	gct	tat	ggc	atg	agc	atg	gcc	1878
Asp	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Ile	His	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ala	Tyr	Gly	Met	Ser	Met	Ala	
				365					370					375		
agg	aac	tac	aac	acg	cgc	gcc	cgt	gcc	gca	gag	gta	ttg	gtt	gat	ggt	1926
Ser	Asn	Tyr	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala	Arg	Ala	Ala	Glu	Val	Leu	Val	Asp	Gly	
			380					385					390			
gac	cag	gtg	cat	gtg	atc	cgt	gaa	cgt	gaa	caa	att	gcc	gac	ctg	ttt	1974
Asp	Gln	Val	His	Val	Ile	Arg	Glu	Arg	Glu	Gln	Ile	Ala	Asp	Leu	Phe	
		395					400					405				
aaa	ctg	gag	cgt	acg	ctg	cca	taacattgac	ggcaaccct	aataaaaaaa							2025
Lys	Leu	Glu	Arg	Thr	Leu	Pro										
	410					415										
ccgaagccgc	caagcttcgg	ttttttatta	atagcgcac	ctttaatcaa	agatcacggt											2085
cttgttcgcg	tagagcaaga	ttctatgctc	aatatgccag	cgcacggctt	tggaaagcac											2145
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gcgcgccaa	gcgcgccaa	gcgcgccaa	gcgcgccaa	gcgcgccaa	gcgcgccaa											2265
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			20					25					30		
Ser	Arg	Ala	Ala	Leu	Thr	Thr	Ala	Phe	Glu	Arg	Phe	Gln	Ala	Gly	Leu
		35					40					45			
Thr	Gly	His	Asp	His	Leu	Ile	Cys	Phe	Ala	Val	Lys	Ala	Asn	Pro	Ser
	50					55					60				
Leu	Ala	Ile	Leu	Asn	Leu	Phe	Ala	Arg	Met	Gly	Ala	Gly	Phe	Asp	Ile
65					70					75					80
Val	Ser	Gly	Gly	Glu	Leu	Ala	Arg	Val	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asp	Pro
				85					90					95	
Lys	Lys	Val	Val	Phe	Ser	Gly	Val	Gly	Lys	Ser	His	Ala	Glu	Ile	Lys
			100					105					110		
Ala	Ala	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Cys	Phe	Asn	Val	Glu	Ser	Val	Asn
		115					120					125			

Glu Leu Asp Arg Ile Gln Gln Val Ala Ala Ser Leu Gly Lys Lys Ala  
 130 135 140

Pro Ile Ser Leu Arg Val Asn Pro Asn Val Asp Ala Lys Thr His Pro  
 145 150 155 160

Tyr Ile Ser His Pro Ala Leu Lys Asn Asn Lys Phe Gly Val Ala Phe  
 165 170 175

Glu Asp Ala Leu Gly Leu Tyr Glu Lys Ala Ala Gln Leu Pro Asn Ile  
 180 185 190

Glu Val His Gly Val Asp Cys His Ile Gly Ser Gln Ile Thr Glu Leu  
 195 200 205

Ser Pro Phe Leu Asp Ala Leu Asp Lys Val Leu Gly Leu Val Asp Ala  
 210 215 220

Leu Ala Ala Lys Gly Ile His Ile Gln His Ile Asp Val Gly Gly Gly  
 225 230 235 240

Val Gly Ile Thr Tyr Ser Asp Glu Thr Pro Pro Asp Phe Ala Ala Tyr  
 245 250 255

Thr Ala Ala Ile Leu Lys Lys Leu Ala Gly Arg Asn Val Lys Val Leu  
 260 265 270

Phe Glu Pro Gly Arg Ala Leu Val Gly Asn Ala Gly Val Leu Leu Thr  
 275 280 285

Lys Val Glu Tyr Leu Lys Pro Gly Glu Thr Lys Asn Phe Ala Ile Val  
 290 295 300

Asp Ala Ala Met Asn Asp Leu Met Arg Pro Ala Leu Tyr Asp Ala Phe  
 305 310 315 320

His Asn Ile Thr Thr Ile Ala Thr Ser Ala Ala Pro Ala Gln Ile Tyr  
 325 330 335

Glu Ile Val Gly Pro Val Cys Glu Ser Gly Asp Phe Leu Gly His Asp  
340 345 350

Arg Thr Leu Ala Ile Glu Glu Gly Asp Tyr Leu Ala Ile His Ser Ala  
355 360 365

Gly Ala Tyr Gly Met Ser Met Ala Ser Asn Tyr Asn Thr Arg Ala Arg  
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Ala Ala Glu Val Leu Val Asp Gly Asp Gln Val His Val Ile Arg Glu  
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